

Acts 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ 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; ⁵ 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

Jesus placed such high importance of this instruction because the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential to all kingdom work

You cannot attempt to understand the Power and Work of the Holy Spirit without first coming to know Him as a person

We must establish in our hearts and minds that He is...

- A divine *Person* – Not an It!
- Infinitely holy, wise, and mighty. Yet, wonderfully tender, sensitive, and compassionate

Even though the Holy Spirit is the **Mighty Power of the Trinity**, He is sensitive and easily grieved

- It is vital to understand what grieves Him

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)

¹⁴The 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**

Communion Means Fellowship

- A friendly relationship, companionship, sharing together
- Intimate friends or comrades
- Regularly discuss intentions, challenges, goals, trials
- You heavily rely on their expertise and friendship
- Continually engaged with one another

This is how genuine trust is built!

We see this in the life of Peter when Holy Spirit is showing him to go with strangers that would take him to a gentile to preach the Gospel – **Acts 19**

Being in close relationship with Holy Spirit means that there will be times when He tells you things you don't want to hear

Acts 20:22–23 (NKJV) Paul

²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

The Holy Spirit wasn't rejoicing in this suffering but preparing Paul for what was ahead

- This passage has always amazed me
- As Paul discussed with Holy Spirit what lay ahead, He didn't say jail and suffering in one city
- He said in every city
- He gladly goes

And this...

Acts 8:26, 29 (NKJV)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

Here we see that Philip is so in tune with the Holy Spirit that he can discern between His voice, and the voice of an angel

Notice also that the angel is telling him to leave a place where a revival is breaking out and go to a desert where nothing is happening

- The man in the chariot was third in command over all of Ethiopia
- Because of his salvation, the gospel is advanced throughout the nation
- If Philip wouldn't have been sensitive to the Holy Spirit's voice he would have missed this great opportunity

Communion Means Partnership

Luke 5:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷ So they signaled to *their partners* in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

- Partners – same word, (*koinonia*)
- Partner, companion, fellow worker
- These men were business partners
- Good partnerships require both communication and action

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; *you are* God's building.

- Weymouth Translation – “[We are] fellow workers *for* and with God.”

We have been given the opportunity to work for and with the creator of the heavens and earth

- We work in partnership with God

Acts 15:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

- Both parties participated in the decision
- They were partners in the Kingdom

We see the same thing in the Old Testament

Abraham:

Genesis 18:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?”

Moses:

Exodus 32:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

Even after this, Moses was able to remind God what was best for both Him and His people

- Moses worked in close partnership with God

Communion Means Intimacy

2 Corinthians 13:14 (The Message)

¹⁴ The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

- Intimacy can only be developed through relationship
- Sharing deep thoughts, secrets, and desires of the heart

James 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

- He is jealous for you and longs for your time and attention
- Remember Holy Spirit is God
- Nothing is hidden from Him
- His knowledge, wisdom, and understanding is limitless
- And He longs to reveal Himself to you

John 16:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

- The Spirit in us takes the written word and intimately reveals the Father and Son to us

Matthew 15:6-9 AMP (Classic)

⁶ 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].

⁷ You pretenders (hypocrites)! Admirably *and* truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said: ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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

However, the Pharisee’s had elevated their traditions over God’s word, which made the word of God to know effect

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

- The same is true for us!

Only the Holy Spirit can make the word of God come alive in our hearts

- Without His guidance the word of God can be stale, and a bit dry
- When we ask Holy Spirit to be a part of our study and prayer time, **the Bible becomes the substance of life**

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT)

⁶He 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
- It breathes life into those who are subject to its rule
- Holy Spirit reveals the awesome mystery of who we are in Christ
- The word becomes our life!

Three Levels of Relationship

John 20:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ 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)

¹¹ 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)

¹² 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)

¹¹ But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² 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

¹⁶ 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)

¹⁶Therefore, 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?
- But 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)

¹⁶Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ¹⁸But 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.