

## WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES IN POWER

Let's bow our heads for a moment in prayer before I begin the teaching this morning:

“Spirit of the living God, we give You reverence. We honor You as the third Person of the Godhead. With reverence, I ask You to move mightily in the midst of us this morning that we come to know You more deeply as our Divine Companion who is most worthy to receive our adoration, our love, our faith and our total surrender. Amen”

What appropriate words of the song we just sang together...Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us this day, this morning; as we are gathered together fall afresh on us.

As we sang together, it was really a corporate prayer **inviting** Him to manifest His holy Presence, **calling** upon Him by using one of His names: Spirit of the living God.

He is called that Name because it is His work to make God “**a living reality**” to us in our personal experience **instead** of a mere intellectual or theological concept. He uses the written word of God and breathes life into us through it. **He** Himself writes it on our hearts. He is the Spirit of the living God and He **is** present with us this morning to make God **a living God** to us!

Did you know that there are at least 25 different names used in the old and new testaments when speaking of the Holy Spirit? Each name brings with it a wonderful revelation of the Person and the work of the Holy Spirit; and each revelation received brings with it its own liberating power! Each name is given to us in order to deepen our faith and confidence in Him to accomplish His work in and through us.

The simplest name by which the Holy Spirit is mentioned in scriptures is The Spirit. In the Hebrew and Greek these words literally mean “breath” or “wind.” Both of these thoughts are in the name. You may recall the thought of “breath” where it is brought out in John 20:22:

“And having said this, Jesus **breathed** on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

It is also suggested in Genesis 2:7:

“And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

And then we find in Job 33:4:

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the **breath** of the Almighty hath given me life.”

Listen to what R.A.Torry says in his book, The Person and Work of The Holy Spirit, regarding the significance of this name from the standpoint of these particular scriptures:

“The significance of this name from these passages is that “The Spirit” is the outbreathing of God: His inmost life going forth in a personal form to quicken, to energize and restore us. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive the **inmost life** of God Himself to dwell in us in a Personal way.”

Just think for a moment. We have presently the infinite and eternal Being whom we call God dwelling in a Personal way in us! How different and glorious life becomes when we realize that! As new creations in Christ, this is a fact. Facts cannot be changed! We **have** the inmost life of the transcendent Holy God dwelling in us in a **personal** way. But do we know this to be true? Are we conscious of this reality? Can we truly say that we are conscious of His Holy Presence indwelling us?

Andrew Murray from his book, The Spirit of Christ, opens this up for us profoundly. Listen carefully now and reflectively.

“There is an introspection in which the soul looks at its own thoughts, feelings, and purposes to find the proof of grace and the ground of peace. This is unhealthy and not of faith for it turns the eye from Christ to self.

But there is another turning inwardly which is one of **the highest exercises of faith**. It is when closing the eye to all it can see in itself the soul seeks to realize **in faith** that there is in its inmost parts a new spirit within which The Spirit of the glorified Christ now dwells.

Without such consciousness of a temple within and its occupant daily renewed in the scriptures in holy silence there cannot be the clear **believing prayer** to the Father to work mightily by His Spirit or the confidence in Jesus to give the living streams from within.”

Are we really conscious of His holy...transcendent...indwelling Presence within? And if we were more aware, how would that change our life?

Now the thought of the Holy Spirit as “**the wind**” is brought out in John 3:3-5 when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about the need of the new birth. He said...

“Most assuredly I say unto you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I say unto you, ‘You must be born again.’ The **wind** blows where it wishes; and you **hear** the sound of it but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of The Spirit.”

It is very important for us to know that in the Greek the same word that is translated “Spirit” in one part of this scripture is translated “wind” in the other part; but it is the same Greek word. When the Lord said that...“The wind blows where it wills”...He was speaking parabolically - in symbol form. He was speaking of the Holy Spirit Himself. Jesus Himself is revealing to us here some of the attributes and some of the ways that the Holy Spirit works, and uses ‘**the wind**’ - something we are very familiar with - as a way of helping us to understand those workings.

The Pulpit Commentary comments on this scripture. Let me just paraphrase it for you: In this encounter with Nicodemus, Jesus took advantage of some audible gusts of roaring wind. He wanted to call attention to the mystery of the wind’s origin and movement. He wanted **us** to see a parallel between the ways of the wind and the way in which the Holy Spirit’s almighty energy works in us. The Spirit is like a “**holy wind**” moving in mysterious and omnipotent power! You are experiencing His power in your hearts right now.

Also, we learn from this verse that like the wind the Holy Spirit is **sovereign**. We learn about this attribute of His when Jesus Himself said, “The wind blows where **it wills**.” (John 3:8) Now what is Jesus teaching us? What is He saying to us in this scripture here about the sovereignty of the wind? Jesus is saying is that we cannot control the wind! We cannot dictate to the wind, it does as it wills.

The same with The Spirit! He is sovereign. We cannot control Him and we cannot dictate to Him! This means we cannot make our own plans without first seeking His counsel and expect

Him to empower us to bring those plans to pass. But how many of us have? And with what results? Remember, The Spirit is like the wind: .He does as He wills, He is **sovereign!**

R.A.Torry says this:

“When the wind is blowing – meaning the natural wind - from the north...you may long for it to blow from the south...you may even cry with a loud voice ‘Blow from the south...blow from the south.’ But it will just keep on blowing from the north! No matter how hard we try to get it to blow from the south. But while you cannot dictate to the wind while it blows as it wills you may **learn** the laws that govern the wind’s motions **and** by bringing yourself into harmony with those laws the wind will do your work for you! For example, you can erect your windmill so that whichever way the wind blows the wheels will turn and the wind will grind your grain or pump your water.”

In the same way, you and I can learn the laws of **The Spirit’s** operations. How is that done? How are we to be in harmony with The Spirit? How can we keep in step with His movements and with His plans for us? By choosing to personally submit our wills **without reservation** to His sovereign leadership and to allow Him to work in and through us.

Another insight from this scripture is like the wind, the Spirit is **invisible**; but none the less perceptible and real and almighty! Jesus said, “You **hear** the sound of the wind.” (John 3:8) But the wind itself you never see! In the same way, we hear The Spirit’s voice but **He** Himself is never visible. For example, we not only hear the sound of the natural wind but we see its mighty effects: we feel the breath of the wind upon our cheeks, we see the dust flying and the leaves blowing, we see the ships at sea driven swiftly on toward their destinations. But the wind itself remains invisible, doesn’t it?

It is the same with The Spirit. **He** is the “**holy wind**” of God Himself! We are sensing His holy Presence with us this morning. We feel His holy breath - His movement upon our souls, don’t we?

- He is teaching us
- He is energizing us
- He is convicting us
- He is correcting us

- He is comforting us
- He may even be bringing healing into your heart
- and in some of you He is bringing healing into your physical body

This **is** The Spirit of the living God manifesting **Himself** this morning! We are presently sensing His holy Presence but we do not see Him! He is perceptible and real and almighty and yet we do not see Him. He is invisible but never the less **very present!** The Spirit like the natural wind is **indispensable** as well absolutely necessary and essential!!!!

Did you know that it is a scientific fact that without wind, that is ‘air in motion’, there is no life? Listen to another quote from R.A. Torrey:

“If the wind should absolutely cease to blow for a single hour most of the life on this earth would cease to be. Time and again when the health reports of the different cities in the United States are issued it has been found that the 5 healthiest cities were the 5 cities located on the Great Lakes. Many have been surprised at this report when they found they had visited some of these cities and found that they were far from being the cleanest cities or the most sanitary in their general arrangement. Year after year this report has been returned. The explanation proved to be just this: It was **the wind blowing** from the lakes...that brought life and health to these cities!”

It is **the same** when The Spirit comes. For when He is moving upon you personally or upon a local church there is abounding spiritual life! The book of Acts attests to this and so do the lives of countless individuals. The scripture that brings this truth out in a most profound way is found in Ezekiel 37:1-10. Here the prophet is given a vision of a **valley** which was full of dry bones. This is what Ezekiel heard from the LORD and recorded for us.

“The hand of the LORD was upon me and He brought me out by The Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley and it was full of dry bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around and behold there were many in the open valley and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live? So I answered: ‘O Lord, You know.’ Again He said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones and say to them: ‘O dry bones, hear **the word** of the LORD!’ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: ‘Surely, I will cause **breath** to enter into you and you shall live! I will put sinews

on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you and you shall live. **Then** you shall know that I am the LORD.

So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied there was a noise and suddenly a rattling, and the bones came suddenly together bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them and the skin covered them over. But there was **no breath** in them! Also, He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the **breath**, prophesy, son of man and say to the breath ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds **breathe** on these.’ So I prophesied as He commanded me and the breath (the wind) came into the bodies and they began to breathe! They all came to life and stood up on their feet a great army of them!’”

The nation of Israel in the prophet’s vision was only dry bones; very many and very dry, **until** the prophet proclaimed **the word** of the Lord to them. **Then** there was a great shaking and the bones came together. But still, there was no life! But when the wind blew - the **breath** of God’s Spirit - **then** they stood up on their feet an exceedingly great army!!!

Did you know that in the book of Ezekiel God refers to Ezekiel as the son of man more than 90 times? It’s true and there is a reason for this. The title “son of man” emphasized the prophet’s humanity and utter weakness and reminded him (every time God spoke to him) that he was totally dependent on The Spirit’s enabling power to fulfill his ministry, his life’s calling.

We too must come to this very same knowledge ourselves no matter what our station in life is! This, too, is very much a part of The Spirit’s ministry to bring us in to this knowledge of ourselves just as He did with the prophet Ezekiel. He does this as His holy Presence blows into our lives at times to interrupt our plans and unearth selfish motives that we are not even aware exist; to reveal our self-centeredness and, all this, to show us our human weaknesses. And for what purpose? Not to bring us harm, but to bring us into the fullness which is ours in Christ. He removes hindrances which are preventing Him from having full sway in our lives. Hindrances which we may or may not be aware of that are preventing us from coming into the glorious destiny that the Lord has already planned and provided for us. Those things which are hindering Him from **maximally** glorifying Jesus in and through our lives.

The question for us this morning is: Are you willing to let the Spirit have full sway in your life: to submit to Him without reservation? If you are truly willing, you can then be assured that He will empower you and glorify Jesus in and through your life and lead you into the glorious destiny God has planned for you in your life and in your ministry. **Remember**, Jesus said: “When the Spirit comes, He will glorify Me!” (John 16:13-14)

### **KNOWING JESUS IN HIS ASCENSION GLORY**

**Jesus Himself** spoke much to His disciples about The Spirit and His coming work, especially during His last hours before His departure from earth. He spoke intimately to His disciples about the Spirit glorifying Him on earth. He said to them in John 16:5-14:

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going? But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth it is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. However, when The Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth. He will **glorify Me** for He will take of what is mine and declare, reveal, disclose, and transmit it to you.”

When the Spirit comes!

Then in John 17, we hear Jesus speaking to His Father about another time He was **to be** glorified. This time by the Father Himself in heaven.

“When Jesus had spoken these things, He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said... ‘Father, the hour has come, glorify Your Son with the glory I had with You before the world was.’”

Jesus was speaking of the time when He would be glorified by the Father in His ascension glory **as** the reward of His obedience unto death.

Now the word “glorify” is not a word that we hear very often in every day conversations. Yet from the Biblical standpoint it is very important for us to understand its true meaning, especially as it applies to the glorification of Jesus both by the Spirit **and** the Father. To “glorify” is to manifest the **hidden** excellence and worth of an object. The excellence and worth is there **already, but** hidden from view until it is manifested, until it is **unveiled**, until it is revealed.

Now in the passages that I have just read to you we see clearly that scripture teaches that there is a **twofold** glorification of Jesus: one is by the Father in heaven, the other is by The Spirit on earth. **Now** we can move into the scriptures that specifically teach us of the glorification of Jesus by the Father in heaven. This truth of the ascension and glorification of Jesus by the Father is clearly beyond our own mental abilities to comprehend! It can only be known **through** the written word and **by** The Spirit's illuminating power. He alone can reveal Jesus to us in His **ascension glory**.

You may be thinking right now: "Altha, I have been a Christian for a long time. I know about Jesus' ascension." Or perhaps you are a leader and are thinking, "I have been teaching this doctrine for years!" But do you and I **really know** what the ascension meant to Jesus **personally**? Do we **really know** what happened when the Father glorified Jesus in heaven? I am thinking if we truly did it would radically change our lives. Listen carefully as I read from the first chapter of Acts as the disciples beheld the ascension of Jesus. There can be much revealed to us in this scripture, but it requires a deeper look to see it.

"Now when Jesus had spoken these things, while the disciples watched He was **taken up** and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He **went up**, behold 2 men stood by them in white apparel; who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was **taken up** from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

We have heard this passage many times, but it requires more than just a glance to understand what it is really saying. There is something in this particular scripture that is not immediately recognized! In one place, it says that Jesus...**"went up"** and in another place, it says that He was **"taken up."** The Spirit must be wanting us to know something about Jesus and His ascension that is quite significant or He would not have used two different phrases. There must be two different meanings. What are they?

In his book, Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible, Myer Pearlman opens this distinction up for us.



I'll just paraphrase it for you. Remember, that in one place it described Jesus' ascension as a **going up** and in another place as a being **taken up**. The first description - a **going up** - represents Christ as entering the Father's presence in His own will and power and right (authority). The second - a **being taken up** - lays the emphasis on the Father's act by which Jesus is exalted, enthroned and glorified in the Father Himself as the reward of His obedience unto death. Meyer then says of this historical event:

“His slow ascent in full view of the disciples brought to them the realization that He was leaving His earthly life and also made them eyewitnesses to His departure. **But** once out of the disciples sight, the journey was instantly completed by an act of **His** Father's will.”

Listen carefully now to what Dr. Swete says of this ascension passage in Acts.

“The instant that God the Father **took** Jesus up all the glory shone about Him and He was in heaven. The sight was not altogether new to Him. In the depth of His Divine consciousness the Son of Man had memories of the glories which in His pre-incarnate life He had had with the Father ‘before the world was,’ but the **human soul** of Jesus up to the moment of the ascension had no experience of the full vision which burst upon Him when He was **taken up** by the Father. **This** was the goal of His human life, the joy set before Him and in this very moment of His ascension and exaltation by the Father it was attained!” (Hebrews 12:2) It was in view of **this ascension glory** and exaltation that Jesus said, “All power (authority) is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

Listen as Dr. Swete continues:

“Nothing is done in that great unknown world which we call heaven without Jesus' initiating, guiding, and determining authority. Processes inconceivable to our minds are being carried forward beyond the veil by agencies equally inconceivable. It is enough for the church to know that all which is being done there is done by the authority of her Lord.”

Jesus **has been** glorified by the Father in heaven! Frances Derk writes in his book, The Names of Christ:

“Forever He is the Man Christ Jesus; never can He return to what He was in His pre-incarnate glory yet now crowned with a greater glory, the redeeming glory of two worlds!”

Jesus is glorified! Jesus is now reigning with universal authority! Can we really say we know Him in **this** way? Jesus said: “When The Spirit comes, He will glorify Me!

- not our ministries
- not our personal ambitions
- not our careers

When the Spirit comes in power, He glorifies Jesus and Him **alone**. Just as He is doing in our time together this morning.

Jesus **is** the King of Glory!!

Jesus **is** the Holy One!

The scriptures are quite clear that before the Lord’s return there will be a church, a remnant that walks in the glory and purity consistent with her calling. Those individuals who will emanate the glory of the ascended and exalted Jesus!

- Why not us?
- Why not you?
- Why not now?

Can you hear His call?

Let’s stand now for our closing song this morning entitled [“Lord, You’re Holy”](#) to reverently honor Jesus: He, our ascended Lord and King!

\*\*\*\*\*

Now for deeper reflection, go back to the Other Teachings page on the website, select Nuggets of Truth and look for “The Glorified Christ and The Holy Spirit.”