

Intimacy with the Holy Spirit Pt 2

By Todd Bentley

Our Advantage

"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" John 14:26).

How wonderful it would be to walk with the Savior in the flesh as the disciples did. Imagine three and a half years of close friendship with Jesus. They ate, slept, traveled, studied, and ministered wit the man Jesus. Side-by-side with the Redeemer, they witnessed Him feed the five thousand, raise the dead, and with sometimes just a word, heal the sick and cast out demons.

But Jesus, before He went away said, "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 advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not com to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you" (John 16:5-7).

What is an advantage? It is plus and gain, improvement, help, benefit. What was advantage? It was the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said (paraphrased), "I will send you a Helper and Teacher. He is the Spirit of truth. He proceeds from the Father. He will testify of me He will give you more" (Hon 15:26).

The disciples, as the walked with Jesus, didn't have the "advantage" that we have. They didn't yet have the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. They walked with this man of flesh as they walked with their brothers, sisters, or Friends. Their hearts were not yet made the spiritual temples God created to enter into. The Holy Spirit had not yet come to fill them. They couldn't feel the glory (with the exception of the Mount of Transfiguration experience) as we do.

It is clear that Jesus says the Holy Spirit is inside of Him, but that He is also in addition to Him. The Holy Spirit is one just like Jesus and will do in Jesus' absence what Jesus would do if He were physically with us. The Holy Ghost is the greatest evangelist. He is a helper. He is one that is called alongside. He is Intercessor, Comforter, Helper, Advocate, and Counselor. He is the one that counsels what we do, when to do it, how to do it, whom to pray for, how to pray for, and He provides words of knowledge and accurate details.

DON'T GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit's Emotions

The Holy Spirit has feelings and emotions. There are things that grieve Him, wound Him, and hurt Him. Likewise, there are things that cause Him to laugh and things that bring Him great pleasure. The Holy Spirit is the sensitive communicator of the emotion of God if I were to describe His emotions, I would liken them more closely to a woman's emotional makeup than a man's. The Holy Ghost's emotional needs are similar, but please note that I am not implying or saying in any way that He is a she. He's sensitive, emotional, expressive, passionate, responsive, open, and quick to respond. He loves to be romanced, loves intimacy, and loves to be loved and told that He's loved often. Even though He knows we love Him, He yearns to hear it over and over again.

My wife knows I love her. She knows it without a doubt. But she still wants me to tell her that I love her. She wants to be noticed, acknowledged, and thought of, and honored cherished, wooed, romanced, and paid attention to. A wife needs an attentive husband, and rightfully so, because inattentiveness is hurtful and wrong in a relationship.

As such, the Holy Spirit knows that you know that He's there, and He knows that you're there, but He still wants you to acknowledge Him, think of Him, honor Him, cherish Him, woo Him, think of Him, and be attentive to Him. He wants your hug, your kiss, your assurance, and "special treatment." He doesn't want to sit and wait on a couch to be called upon simply when he's needed. He wants the intimate undivided attention. He desires koininia with you and says, "How much do you love me?"

Grieving and Blaspheming the Holy Spirit

Most married men I know are protective of their wives. If someone says or does something wrong towards my wife that protectiveness kicks in faster than you can say Methuselah. No one on this earth is going to hurt her if I can help it. God the Father and Jesus are protective of the Holy Spirit in much the same way, because of the Holy Spirit is one who gets hurt, wounded, or grieved. Emotionally, He's like the woman in the relationship of the Godhead and they watch out for him all of the time.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4:30, not to grieve the Holy Spirit. It means do not wound Him, do not hurt Him, and do not cause Him pain. Only someone with feelings can be wounded and experience pain.

One way not to grieve Him is to realize who or what He is not. The Holy Spirit is not an "it." He's not "the gift" of the Holy Spirit; He's not revival! He's not the shaking; and He's not the falling over. He is a person whom you can hurt, wound, and grieve. He's the "with you" presence.

Isaiah 63:10 tells us, "They [the children of Israel] rebelled and grieved [vexed] His Holy Spirit, so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them." God as an enemy is a serious ramification, and we're not to take this lightly. The word vexed means tormented. The Israelites grieved Him, caused Him pain, and wounded and tormented Him.

To understand the importance of the Holy Spirit to the Father, imagine Him as the emotion of the Godhead. He is the one that expresses feeling. He's the mushy gushy. You can't feel the love of God without Him, nor can you feel His presence without the Holy Ghost. You can't even say that Jesus is Lord without Him. He is the one that enables us to feel God's presence and to hear His voice: "he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says" (Rev. 2:7). Everything comes through the Spirit. The Spirit is the communicator o the voice o God and the emotion of God. That's why the Father and Jesus are so protective. There is something so precious, dear, and wonderful about Him. They don't want Him wounded and grieved. The words grieve means to cause pain, torment, and wounding. Don't do that to the Holy Ghost. Don't wound Him. Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking grieve Him (Eph 4:13). But kindness toward one another, tender-heartedness, forgiving one another even as God in Christ forgave you (v. 32) pleases Him.

Protecting the Holy Spirit

The Father and Jesus are so protective of the Holy Ghost that the one unpardonable sin the Bible mentions is to blaspheme against Him (Mark 3:28, 29). It is the one and only sin without forgiveness. It's not blasphemy against the Father, or the Son, but against the Holy Ghost. What sets Him apart? Why Him? Why so protective over His emotions?

The Holy Sprit is the revealer. He reveals to you the love of God. "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed and no one can say that Jesus is the Lord except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3b). The Spirit comes and manifests to you the love that Jesus has for you. He manifests to you the love and the forgiveness that is in the Father, because Jesus satisfied the holy wrath in the Father that demanded that sins be paid for. That's why the Father is so protective of the Holy Ghost. And that's why Jesus said that every blaspheme against the Father, and every blaspheme against the Son, shall be forgiven, but not against the Holy Ghost.

It's sad, but some of us use the Holy Spirit. We just want the Holy Ghost and His anointing - the miracles, the gifting, and the prophecies - for what those things can do for us or our ministries, for open doors and opportunities they will provide for us. We are using the Holy Spirit. Stop! This grieves Him. We need to become His resting place.

HOLY SPIRIT INTIMACY

We Are His Resting Place

"Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the water was abated from the face of the land; but the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, so she returned to him into the ark; for the water was on the surface of all the earth. Then he put out his hand and took her, and brought her into the ark to himself. So he waited yet another seven days; and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove came back to him toward the evening, and behold, in her beak was a freshly picked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the water was abated from the earth." (Gen. 8:8-11, NASB).

Think of the nature of a dove. They are gentle and peaceful in the natural, and then, whoosh, they fly away when something disturbs or startles them. If we want the Holy Sprit to rest on us with the olive leaf, then we have to stop sinning, and stop grieving and hurting the Holy Spirit. Every time we sin whoosh, the Holy Spirit lifts. He doesn't depart from us, but the manifest presence does. The "with you" presence flies away, figuratively speaking. If we want the Holy Spirit to rest, we have to avoid quick movements, those quick movements that fulfill our flesh. Do you want to be a resting place for the Holy Spirit? DO you want the Holy Spirit, the dove of God, to rest on you with that olive leaf in his mouth? Fall in love with Jesus and have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, because if you truly know Him, you'll become quickly convicted and aware of those things that startle, wound, or hurt Him.

Wooing the Holy Spirit

Ignoring the Holy Spirit grieves Him. Let's say I come over to your house and you lead me to the couch and say that you love me and that were Friends. I sit there all day long, and you know I'm there, but you run around and do all the things that you need to do in your house, with barely a glance my way. You don't acknowledge I'm there, even though you know in your business that I am. How would you feel if I invited you over to my house and did the same thing? That's how thee church is with the Holy Spirit. We say, "Com Holy Spirit, come into my church and sit in that pew right there. When I need the anointing, a prophetic word, power or blessing, I'll call on you, but until then, just sit."

The Holy Spirit loves romance and loves to hear that you love Him. It's not enough to acknowledge that He is inside of you, but that He is with you. He wants that eye-to-eye and heart-to-heart close contact. He wants the intimacy. He knows that you love Him but wants to hear it. He wants to hear you say, "Holy Spirit, I love You. Come on over, sit with me!" As with a husband to a wife, or vice versa, words of appreciation and gratitude, love, and devotion are important so that the one doesn't feel the other is taking them for granted.

Holy Desperation

The Holy Spirit loves it when I'm desperate for Him. "Holy Spirit, I'm not getting into the pulpit tonight without you. We're not doing this unless I have your manifest presence. I'm not going! Holy Spirit, I'm not going! I want to see something. I've got to see what's going on tonight; what's the Father doing?" Before I go evangelizing, it's like, "Holy Spirit, we are going into the street today to talk about Jesus! Who knows Jesus better than You, Holy Spirit? There is no greater evangelist, Holy Spirit, than You. You can witness and testify about Jesus more than I can, so let's go into the street. Let's open up the door; come on, let's go out into the street, and let's reach people for Jesus tonight! You are the one that reveals. No one can come to the Father, no one can say that Jesus is Lord unless You come. No one can say that Jesus is Lord but by the Spirit of God. Holy Spirit, I'm not going to win souls without You! If you don't come with me, I want to go home."

I can tell you about fellowship with the Holy Spirit and describe my own experiences with Him until the cow comes home, but it won't affect you unless you experience it for yourself. The heart of the Holy Spirit asks, "Why do you draw back when you could have intimacy with me?" Do you want an encounter with the "Us"?

Walk, work, play, and breath in the Spirit is a moment-by-moment lifestyle where you learn and depend upon the Holy Spirit as a close, intimate friend.

Prayer

Forgive me Holy Spirit for every time I've grieved You. Forgive me for tormenting You, wounding You, and using You. Forgive me for not knowing You as a person. Forgive me for every time I've chased You away, I never served you. I never appreciated You. Holy Spirit, I'm sorry about that. I'm sorry, and I want You. I want you and I know You will come, Holy Spirit. Where is Your closeness? Where is Your closeness, Holy Spirit? I want to encounter and experience You way beyond the power of the gifting. I want to enter into koininia. Holy Spirit, I want communion. I want to know your closeness. Holy Spirit, I want to be a partner and know a sharing and intimate bond with You. I want to be Your resting place. I yield to You sweet Spirit. I surrender to You, sweet and loving, tender Spirit. I want to know You emotions; I want to know Your glory; I want to recognize Your voice and understand Your character. I want Your presence to move with me. I'll love You, Holy Spirit. I'll cherish You, Holy Spirit. I'll embrace You, Holy Spirit. I'll welcome You, Holy Spirit. I'll adore You and honor You. Com, rest in me with Your olive branch. Come sweet Spirit of God. Amen

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