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Teaching Segment #2

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The Person of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is fully God. There is nothing we can say about the nature of God that is not equally true about the nature of the Holy Spirit.

1) To lie to the Spirit is to lie to God

*“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? **4**While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”*

Acts 5:3-4

2) The temple of God is the temple of the Spirit

*Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? **1**If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

3) He possesses the attributes of God

*“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? **8**If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! **9**If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, **10**even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.”*

Psalms 139:7-10

*For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, **14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

Hebrews 9:13-14

4) He distributes the gifts of God

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5**and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6**and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7**To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8**For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10**to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11**All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

2. The Holy Spirit is a person. We must also never lose sight of the reality that the Holy Spirit is a person. Scripture repeatedly declares that the Spirit has personal characteristics.

1) He has intelligence:

“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 that I have said to you.”

John 14:26

2. He has emotions:

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Ephesians 4:30

3. He interacts on a personal level:

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

Romans 8:14

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”

Romans 8:16

3. The Holy Spirit is the active agent of God. The Holy Spirit, whom we know as the 3rd person of the Trinity, seems to be the one responsible for bringing about God’s purposes in the world. If God the Father *ordains*, the Son *accomplishes*, then the Holy Spirit applies and acts. We see this in two key ways:

- 1) The Spirit manifests the presence of God.
 - He is present in every period of history.
 - He is particularly active in the New Covenant.
- 2) The Spirit displays the power of God.

The Spirit is active yet submissive. We see this idea when Jesus says in **John 16:13** that the Holy Spirit *“will not speak on His own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”*

A consistent theme throughout the OT and the NT is that the Holy Spirit moves on (fills, comes upon) people in order to bring about God’s purposes on the earth. This happens in *different ways* in the OT and NT, but the Holy Spirit faithfully moves on the hearts of people in order to bring about God the Father’s purposes and plans.

The Holy Spirit is the agent that is active in the world today. All that we know and experience of God comes through the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit.

In short, the Holy Spirit enables and empowers the people of God to participate and accomplish the mission of God in the world.

Questions to consider:

1. How does the Holy Spirit enable people to accomplish the things of God? What exactly does the Holy Spirit enable people to do?

The most common way the Spirit empowers people is through *speaking*. Spirit prompted speech is seen, though in different degrees, throughout the history of creation continuing up through the present day. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 10:20 when he tells His disciples to not be afraid about what they are to say because the Holy Spirit will give them the words to speak.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit at work in Creation:

The Spirit participates in the work of creating as an equal yet subservient member of the Trinity. The Father's purpose was to create and we see the Son and the Spirit at work in bringing about the Father's plan.

1. The Spirit creates....

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2

2. The Spirit gives life to creation....

"By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent."

Job 26:13

"When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground."

Psalms 104:30

3. The Spirit gives life to the creature.....

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. "

Genesis 2:7

*"If he should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, **15**all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust."*

Job 34:14-15

2. The Spirit and the Fall:

1. The Spirit convicts of sin....

8And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

John 16:8-11

2. The Spirit responds to sin....

“Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.”

1 Samuel 16:14

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:29-32

3. When we sin, we defile the Spirit....

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

4. When we sin, we insult the Spirit....

“How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” 31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Hebrews 10:29-31

The Spirit gives victory over sin....

1. We live by the Spirit...

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if, by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ”

Romans 8:13

2. The Spirit intercedes in our weakness....

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27**And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

Romans 8:26-27

3. The Spirit and Redemption:

Redemption anticipated (Genesis to Malachi)...

The Spirit with Israel

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is a situational, transitory presence....

“Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.”

1 Samuel 16:14

*“Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. **12**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”*

Psalms 51:11-12

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit is an anticipated promise....

“For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.”

Isaiah 32:15

*“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27**And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”*

Ezekiel 36:26-27

“And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 39:29

The Spirit enables the work of God...

1. He enables God’s people to lead.....

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. **17**And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.”*

Numbers 11:16-17

*“But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother. **10**The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. **11**So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.”*

Judges 3:9-11

2. He equips God’s people with skills...

*“The LORD said to Moses, **2**“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, **3**and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship..”*

Exodus 31:2-3

The Spirit inspires the worship of God...

*“Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: **2**“The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me;his word is on my tongue.”*

2 Samuel 23:1-2

*“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Ephesians 5:17-21

Redemption Fulfilled (Matthew-John)

The Spirit on Jesus

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was a transitory presence on people...

On Jesus, the Holy Spirit is permanent presence....

*“And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ **34**And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”*

John 1:32-34

*“And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, **18**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **19**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” **20**And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of*

all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21**And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:17-21

The Spirit at work in the incarnation of Jesus Christ....

1. The Spirit prepares the way prophetically..

“And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42**and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

Luke 1:41

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, **68**“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people **69**and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, **70**as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, **71**that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; **72**to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, **73**the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us **74**that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear; **75**in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. **76**And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, **77**to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, **78**because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high **79**to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:67-79

2. The Spirit makes the incarnation possible in a physical sense....

“And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:18

3. The Spirit at work in the baptism of Jesus.....

“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, **22**and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:22

“And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ **34**And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

John 1:32-34

3. The Spirit at work in the temptation of Jesus....

“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness.”

Luke 4:1

“And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.”

Luke 4:14

3. The Spirit and the works of Jesus....

Jesus worked in the power of the Holy Spirit

*“And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. **28**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*

Matthew 12:28

Jesus and the joy of the Holy Spirit

“In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”

Luke 10:21

4. The Spirit and the Passion of Jesus

The Spirit empowered Jesus to go the cross.....

*“For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, **14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”*

Hebrews 9:13-14

The Spirit testified of Jesus through the resurrection.....

*“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2**which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3**concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh **4**and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord”*

Romans 1:1-4

5. The Spirit and the ascension of Jesus....

The ascension if the catalyst of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.....

*“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38**Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” **39**Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

John 7:37-39

*“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2**until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3**He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.**4**And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5**for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7**He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:1-9

Redemption Applied (Acts - Revelation)

The Spirit in the Church

In Acts, Jesus, who possessed the Spirit completely, now pours out the Spirit on God’s people.

The Holy Spirit enables the Church to..

1. Experience God’s presence
2. Obey God’s commands
3. Fulfill God’s purposes

The Holy Spirit initiates a shift....

1. From a few of God’s people to all of God’s people
2. From limited power to unlimited power
3. From one nations to all nations

The Spirit regenerates....

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter

*the kingdom of God. **6**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7**Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **8**The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

John 3:5-8

The Spirit and regeneration.....

1. The Spirit opens our eyes.....

*"Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. **16**But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. **17**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18**And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.-For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."*

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

2. The Spirit gives us a new heart...

*"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27**And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."*

Ezekiel 36:26-27

3. The Spirit cleanses and renews us....

*"For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4**But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5**he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6**whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7**so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

Titus 3:3-7

4. The Spirit enables victory over sin.....

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2**For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."*

Romans 8:1-2

The Spirit indwells us....

*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? **17**If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The Spirit unites our lives with Christ....

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is

written, “The two will become one flesh.” **17**But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. **18**Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. **19**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20**for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:16-20

The Spirit sanctifies...

The Holy Spirit works to conform the people of God into the image of His Son, Jesus.

Sanctification is ordained by God the Father...

“Even as He chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

Ephesians 1:4

Sanctification is made possible by God the Son....

***25**Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26**that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27**so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”*

Ephesians 5:25-27

Sanctification is achieved by the Spirit....

*“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if, by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15**For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17**and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”*

Romans 8:13-17

*“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10**nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11**And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

The Spirit comforts us....

The Spirit comes alongside as a helper....

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17**even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”*

John 14:15-17

The Spirit teaches us....

***13**When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14**He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15**All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”*

John 16:13-15

*“But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—**10**these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11**For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12**Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. **13**And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **14**The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”*

1 Corinthians 2:10-14

1. He reminds us.....

“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 that I have said to you.”

John 14:26

The Spirit teaches us the Word....

1. Without the Spirit we’re dead.....unable to perceive the things of God

*But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—**10**these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11**For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12**Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. **13**And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **14**The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not*

able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Corinthians 2:10-14

“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 that I have said to you.”

John 14:26

2. The Spirit teaches through revelation.....

*“I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **10**I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet **11**saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”*

Revelation 1:9-11

*“I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17**that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,”*

Ephesians 1:16-17

3. The Spirit teaches through inspiration....

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

4. The Spirit teaches through illumination....

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”

Psalms 119:18

The Spirit guides.....

1. The Spirit guides God’s people to accomplish God’s will....

*“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if, by the Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15**For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17**and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”*

Romans 8:13-17

2. The Spirit guides individuals in everyday, seemingly mundane situations...

*“And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” **30**So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”*

Acts 8:29

“And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you.”

Acts 10:19

“And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.”

Acts 11:12

*“And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. **7**And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.”*

Acts 16:6-7

3. The Spirit guides the church.....

*“For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: **29**that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”*

Acts 15:28-29

The Spirit intercedes.....

1. The Spirit enables us to pray according to the Father’s will.....

We’ve already seen how, apart from the Spirit and union with Jesus, we have no capacity to understand the things of God. He teaches, guides, directs and speaks through us.

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27**And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29**For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30**And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”*

Romans 8:26-30

The Spirit unifies.....

1. The Holy Spirit is often connected to the fellowship of the church.....

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Philippians 2:1

**** See Page 35 for more on the “Fellowship of the Spirit”

The Spirit bears fruit....

1. The Spirit is working to glorify Christ by conforming the character of God’s people into the character of Jesus...

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:22-26

A. Love

- Fleshly love is conditional
- Spirit enabled love is unconditional

“And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. 6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:5-8

B. Joy

- Fleshly joy is susceptible to circumstances
- Spirit enabled joy supercedes circumstances

”And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

C. Peace

- Fleshly, worldly peace is fleeting and temporal
- Spirit, enabled peace is unshakable, lasting

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 14:17

D. Patience

- Fleshly patience is short-lived, quickly triggered
- Spirit enabled patience perseveres through hinderances

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-6

E. Kindness

- Fleshly kindness is conditional, giving way to judgement
- Spirit enabled kindness perseveres through ridicule and persecution

“31Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32

38*“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39**But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. **40**And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. **41**And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. **42** Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”*

Matthew 5:38-42

F. Goodness

- Fleshly goodness produces religious pride
- Spirit enabled goodness produces humility

“Therefore do not become partners with them; 8for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:8-10

G. Faithfulness

- Fleshly faithfulness is results driven, fleeting
- Spirit enabled faithfulness is relationship driven, lasting

*“**10**Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. **11**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.”*

Revelation 2:10-11

H. Self Control

- Fleshly self control leads to excessive indulgence
- Spirit enabled self control exercises disciplined passion and pursuits

“24And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.25If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Galatians 5:24-25

The Spirit gives gifts....

1. The Spirit distribute gifts to every believer for the building up of the body.....

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.4Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.12For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

**** See **Page 25** for more on Spiritual gifts.....

The Spirit activates and energizes worship.....

1. To be filled with the Spirit is to overflow in adoration and thanksgiving

“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Ephesians 5:17-21

2. We tend to look at worship through merely external standards and measurements....

3. Jesus, though, flips it upside down and defines worship as....

- A. The response of our heart
- B. The reality of His presence

4. When we are filled with the Spirit we....

- A. Express praise and adoration
- B. Give thanks
- C. Submit to one another

5. We worship in Spirit and Truth

“23But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:23-24

- A. Worship without the Spirit is hypocrisy
- B. Worship without the Truth is idolatry

*** See **Page 36** for more on worship and the Holy Spirit

The Spirit empowers witness....

1. The Spirit fills the church so that the gospel might be proclaimed to all peoples and languages....

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

“Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’.

John 20:21

2. The Spirit fills us with power....

*“Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46**and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47**and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49**And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

Luke 24:45-49

The Spirit and Consummation:

The Spirit Assures us...

1. We are confident of our union with Christ because of the Spirit...

*“And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **24**Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”*

1 John 3:23-24

2. We are confident that we are children of God because of the Spirit....

*“**15**For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17**and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”*

Romans 8:15-17

3. We are confident of our future inheritance because of the Spirit....

*“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14**who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”*

Ephesians 1:13-14

4. We are confident in our waiting for our final salvation....

*“For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. **6**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”*

Galatians 5:5-6

Other Thoughts/Issues Concerning the Holy Spirit

1. Is there a scriptural precedence for “pursuing more of the Holy Spirit”?

Scripture teaches that all believers receive the Holy Spirit as a result of the new birth/salvation.

However, is there a precedent for pursuing “more” of the Holy Spirit as we have talked about in our church family and as we hear others in different denominations/backgrounds talk about?

If we search the scriptures, I believe we will be able to say with confidence that there is an invitation to pursue and receive more of the Holy Spirit.

A. Scripture seems to imply that there are different “measures” (or degrees of surrender and responsiveness) to the relationship with the Holy Spirit.

“For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.”

John 3:34

B. Jesus directs His followers to ask, seek and knock while teaching them that God the Father will give them the Holy Spirit if they ask.

“9And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 11What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:9-13

Jesus, knows, obviously, of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that is nearly upon them yet encourages His followers “ask, seek and knock” to the Father about the Holy Spirit. One of the the primary features of the New Covenant is the outpouring of the Spirit and indwelling of everyone who trusts in Jesus. This is standard, yet here we see Jesus directing His followers to ask for more of the Holy Spirit.

C. In Ephesians 5, the Holy Spirit speaking through Paul commands believers to “be filled with the Spirit”.

“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Ephesians 5:17-21

1. One Command - “Be Filled with the Spirit”

A. to be filled with the Spirit is not a suggestion, but a command

B. The fullness of the Spirit is not an optional add-on for the more “spiritual”.

2. “Be Filled” - **Plural**

A. The Spirit fills the church

3. “Be Filled” - Passive

- A. Not us possessing more of the Spirit
- B. It’s a surrender, a yielding so the Spirit possesses more of us...

4. “Be Filled” - Present, Continuing, Action

- A. This is not a one time event
- B. Ongoing experience
- C. Filling of the Spirit is gift given multiple times for a variety of reasons

5. Two Primary Reasons the Spirit fills believers....

- A. All believers to grow in Christ, participate in the Body, and witness for Christ

*but be filled with the Spirit, **19**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

Ephesians 5:19-21

“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.”

Acts 6:3-5

*“When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, **24**for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.”*

Acts 11:24

- B. Opportunities for ministry.....

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders..”

Acts 4:8

*“But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him **10**and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?”*

Acts 13:9

***** We will discuss at a later time, *HOW* we might grow in relationship with the Holy Spirit.**

Instead of using the language “pursuing more of the Spirit” perhaps we should, instead, talk of a deepening yieldedness, attentiveness and responsive. We might articulate it as a deepening surrender to the personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

2. Are the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit for today?

A. There are some who would say that the miraculous gifts of the Spirit are no longer operational in the church today. Consider this quote....

“The four temporary sign gifts included miracles, healings, tongues, and interpretations of tongues. These four sign gifts had a unique purpose- to give the apostles credentials, to let the people know that these men all spoke the truth of God. But once the Word of God was inscripturated, the sign gifts were no longer needed and they ceased.”

John MacArthur

Most cessationists would also put *prophecy* in this list.

B. While, we recognize that the original Apostles were uniquely used by God in a special transitory time in history, **we see no indication, no scriptural teaching that these gifts are no longer available to the church today.**

C. Several texts are typically used to argue for cessationism:

“8Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

- The primary argument from this text is that “perfect” has come in the completion of the canon of scripture. Yet, it is clear from the text that this couldn’t be what Paul is referring. For the “then face to face” refers to when believers will be present with Jesus. Thus the “perfect” has not come and prophecy remains.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22

- The argument here is that since the foundation has been laid for the church there is no longer any need for “apostles and prophets”. Yet, as we continue reading in Ephesians, in 4:11-13, Paul declares that God gave “*the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers for building up the body, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*”.
- We can’t really believe that the church has reached this level of maturity! So we must conclude that if Paul is saying we need apostles and prophets in 4:11, but earlier seemed to imply that they weren’t needed anymore, that we must have gotten something wrong in our interpretation of 2:19-22.

As we truly understand these scriptures, and Jesus' own words below, we will see that there is an expectation for all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to continue in order for the kingdom of God to advance and for the church to be built up, all for the praise of His glory.

“Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:12

*“And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. **28**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ”*

Matthew 12:28

Functional Cessationism

This is probably a more common reality in the church today than *actual* cessationism. This is the church who would say “yes, we believe in all the gifts of the Spirit”, yet would be doing nothing functionally to pursue or grow the body in the use of the gifts.

We will touch on this some, when we talk about the church gathering and the fellowship of the body in a later discussion.

Prophecy, Healing and Deliverance from Demons:

The Gift of Prophecy

*“**7**To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8**For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9**to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10**to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11**All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”*

1 Corinthians 14:7-11

Prophecy, and the practice of prophecy in the local church has tremendous value in building up the body towards unity of faith and maturity in Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.”

Prophecy Defined:

The human report of a revelation from God.

What it is NOT:

Prophecy is not simply encouragement, though prophecy is intended to encourage. But not all encouragement is prophecy. A regular ministry of the Holy Spirit is to encourage, enlighten and bring understanding to the body of Christ, yet that doesn't necessarily mean that all encouragement is prophecy.

Prophecy is not simply feeling convicted and sharing it with the body of Christ. Prophecy does bring conviction, but a sense of conviction, or fresh understanding of a passage of scripture is not necessarily prophecy.

Please don't misunderstand, the gift of exhortation (encouragement) is a valuable gift in the body of Christ, but they are not the same gift.

What is the purpose of prophecy?

1 Corinthians 14:3 tells us that the purpose of prophecy is for the “**upbuilding and encouragement and consolation**” of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11 states that God gave the *prophets*, as one of the roles/functions that “equips the saints for the work on ministry”; until we reach maturity in Christ.

The purpose of prophecy is for the building up to maturity of the people of God - the body of Christ.

Why Test Prophecy?

Scripture commands it.

*“**19**Do not quench the Spirit. **20**Do not despise prophecies, **21**but test everything; hold fast what is good. **22**Abstain from every form of evil.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Prophecy in Practice

1. Listening: Prophecy begins with learning to listen and discern God's voice. There are 3 aspects of prophecy:

Revelation

Interpretation

Application

Revelation: refers to the thought, image, or insight delivered to the listener by the Holy Spirit.

In our waiting, we pay attention to what comes into your mind: it will likely either be something you “hear” - a word, phrase or scripture, or will be something you “see” - a picture, symbol or memory.

God often speaks through pictures - Consider many of the prophecies of the Old Testament: Isaiah's hot coal (Isaiah 6), Jeremiah's almond branch (Jeremiah 23,33)

A picture is worth a thousand words

How Does God Speak?

God speaks in ways that are not always clear and decisive. (See 1 Samuel 3; Jeremiah 32:1-15)

Angels - (Hebrews 1:14) “Ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation”

Audible voice

Audible to your ears only

Internal, audible voice

Sentence fragments; or just a word pops into our minds

A knowing; This is something that we simply *know*, though we don’t know how we know

Impressions: less certain than *knowings*

Image or picture - “cord of three strands” (Ecc. 4:12)

Dreams, visions, trances

Natural world - God speaks through creation (Romans 1:19-20, the natural world is full of analogies for spiritual truths.

Fleeces - (Judges 6:36-40).

Interpretation: describes the process of deciphering and discerning intent and meaning from the revelation.

When you hear a word or see a picture the first step is not to shout *it out* but to ask *“Lord, what are you saying through this word or picture?”*

Application: the final step, after receiving the revelation and discerning what God’s intent and meaning

The next step is not to *shout it out*, but again to ask *“Lord, what do you want me to do with this?”*

2. Speaking: The all important question is *“How do I know that it’s Lord speaking?”* You can use the ABC filter:

Affirming: As prophecy is for encouraging and strengthening, ask yourself is the message you received affirming of the person? If not, it’s best to continue to pray about it, and seek counsel from others who are more practiced in prophecy.

Biblical: We should then ask ourselves whether the message we received aligns with scripture. God won’t contradict himself. If it doesn’t align with scripture, you can be sure it’s not God speaking.

Christlike: Building on the previous two, does the message align with the character of Christ? Could you imagine Jesus saying it? There may be times when we are given words of conviction or warning but these seem to be the exception rather than the rule. Again, seek direction from others who are mature in this gift. Also remember, when asked to speak a difficult word, it's all to be done in love.

Don't use the phrase "Thus saith the Lord" - this can create an obligation on the one receiving the word to obey..... Instead simply use "I think the Lord is saying"

3. Receiving: Scripture gives us instruction in both the giving and receiving of a prophetic word. This is often overlooked.

Prophecy can be freely received but weighed carefully.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22 "Do not despise prophecy, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil"

Be patient with prophecy: we could receive a word, but it's for a later season of life. (Prophecy/prayer journal)

The "gifts of healings"

"7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

1 Corinthians 14:7-11

Healing Prayer: Guiding Principles

1. God wants to heal the sick today.

- It is God's nature to heal. He is Jehovah Rapha - The Lord who Heals (Exodus 15:26)
- Jesus gave the disciples (and the 72) authority to heal. (Matthew 10:1; Luke 10:1-12)

2. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- When the Holy Spirit was given to the church, the church received power to witness.
- One of the gifts of the Spirit is the gift of healing. (1 Cor. 12:9)

3. Trust in God is demonstrated by action.

- Faith is muscle that must be exercised, without exercise it will atrophy.

- Responding to the Holy Spirit is one of the ways we exercise our faith muscles.

4. Love is the motivation.

- Love is the internal motivator for the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit. (1 Cor. 13)
- Compassion was what drove Jesus to heal people. (Matthew 9:35-38)
- One of the goals of healing prayer is that the person feels more loved by God and others than before we prayed.

5. God wants to heal the whole person.

- God desires to heal the whole person, not just the physical body, but also emotional and mental capacities, with spiritual healing or salvation as the ultimate end. (John 7:23)
- We should keep in mind we are praying for persons and not simply conditions.

5 Part Healing Prayer Model

There is no magical formula for healing. As we've seen throughout scripture, Jesus heals people very differently based on the circumstances of the environment and the person needing healing. This model, however, does attempt to pull together the different parts of a healing that we see Jesus demonstrate.

The Five Parts:

Dialogue
 Diagnosis
 Decide
 Prayer
 Post Prayer

What isn't listed here, is the personal, daily walk of abiding in Jesus through obedience, faith and love that are the foundation for any of the ways that can work through us.

Part 1: Dialogue (Be Curious)

We may be led to pray for healing in a couple of different ways. We may be approached by someone during a formal time of prayer. We may be led personally and directly by the Holy Spirit to someone who needs prayer for healing.

Regardless, we want to take a few minutes to be curious about the person, learning a bit of their story and how they have come to be where they are. This helps to ensure the person feels loved and cared for. If they don't receive immediate physical healing, they will still feel valued and will experience God's love.

This sort of approach requires us to be sensitive to our surroundings, to the Holy Spirit and be

open to be used in any situation.

This part could take 5 minutes, or depending on the circumstances, might be longer.

We want to come to a point in the discussion where we understand what the person is in need of prayer for. This leads into a more specific diagnosis mindset.

Part 2: Diagnosis (Understanding the Cause)

In this part, we evaluate what we have learned about the person from our conversation with, taking into consideration biblical knowledge, knowledge about human behavior and common sense experience we have gained from life in general.

If in physical pain, we might ask them, **on a scale from 1-10**, what pain level they are experiencing at this moment.

This part certainly overlaps with the first and may have no clear delineation between the two. **As such, do not get hung up on following this model exactly step by step.**

We can ask questions of the person, though they often do not fully understand the root cause of their problem. **We also ask the Holy Spirit for a word or revelation that might help lead us to the root cause.**

Sometimes physical health struggles are caused by sin. We know from the story of the blind man in John 9 that this is not always the case. However, we also read in James 5 to confess our sins that we might be healed. Willful, long term unrepentant sin can be a root cause.

We should also understand that sometimes physical problems have their roots in relational/emotional strife such as bitterness and unforgiveness. Relationships with those closest to the person are something we can try to understand in these first two parts of our interaction with them.

Asking when the problem started, and about what was going on in their life at the time can be helpful.

Additionally, demonic influence and involvement can cause physical health problems.

Ultimately, we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us understand how we should pray for the person, which is the next part of this process.

Part 3: Decide (How to Pray)

This third part seeks to answer *“What kind of prayer is needed to help this person?”* While we know God wants to heal, it would be presumptuous to assume we know how and when he wants to heal a person. So, we ask the Lord those questions.

We will be more fruitful in praying for healing when we are able to pray according to God’s will for a particular person. This what we might understand as an *anointing* to partner with God in healing in a specific situation.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God, that if we ask anything according to His will, he

hears us. And if we know that he hears us we know that we have what we have asked of him.”

1 John 5:14-15

There are several different ways that we might pray for healing. Prayers of petition, intercession; words of command.

Intercession: This sort of prayer is perhaps the most common. When we pray in this way, we are standing in the gap, so to speak, between the Lord and the person in need of healing. This is a straightforward prayer, such as “Lord, please heal Jill of this condition”;

Word of Command: Sometimes we sense God leading us to pray a short, direct command for the physical condition to be removed. This type usually comes with a noticeable burst of faith. It’s almost as if we are speaking to the condition itself.

Some involved in healing ministries, based on Jesus’ authority delegated to believers”; teach that we should always pray direct commands of declaration. While, on one hand I can see how they might come to this conclusion, it feels as if it may be overstepping. While Jesus has given the believer *some* authority, we are not Jesus.

With all that being said, there are times when we will feel led to pray this way.

Part 4: Prayer

This is the actual prayer for the person. There are a few elements of this part that we want to give some consideration to.

Typically, we will lay hands on the person we are praying for. Often, we can directly lay hands on the part of the body afflicted. We see Jesus often do this, touching the eyes, ear or leprosy.

We always ask to do this. It is critical to be respectful of the person’s space to ask for permission to lay hands, and to lay hands on the part of their body that is affected.

If it is a sensitive body part, we might ask the person to put their hands on the part first, we can then place our hands on theirs. For example, in praying for someone with breast cancer, we might ask the lady to cross her hands on her chest and then we can place our hands over hers. Or, if there is a lady present in the group praying for healing, she could also be the one laying hands on the person.

We always want to show the utmost respect to the person being prayed for.

The actual prayer might be quite simple. We invite the Holy Spirit to come and minister to the person by saying:

“Holy Spirit, we invite you to come and release your healing power in this person” or even simply “Holy Spirit come!”

It is best, when praying for unbelievers” in public, to keep our eyes open, as this allows us to observe the persons” response and is less awkward for people.

In many instances, there will be no observable signs of the Spirit's but other times there will be such as those listed in the core practices we discussed earlier.

Part 5: Post Prayer

This part answers the questions about any follow-up that is needed for the person that was prayed for.

If in pain, ask what pain level they are experiencing right now.

We might need to continue in prayer for an extended period so long as the person is able. Testimony has been given on people experiencing healing after significant time in prayer.

If the person didn't experience healing, or complete healing, there should be a follow up time for additional prayer. The conversation and care shown throughout our interaction with the person should establish solid ground for ongoing relationships.

We might direct them to a small group or to our church fellowship to get connected on a more regular basis

We might include instructions to "sin no more", such as Jesus prayed in John 8:1-11.

When a person is not healed immediately

Bless them and love on them

Tell them Often people get healed days/weeks later

Pay attention to your body

Let's believe that a seed of healing is planted

When your healing comes, tell everyone what God did for you

3. How do we grow in relationship with the Holy Spirit?

We've already discussed the scriptural precedent for pursuing a deepening surrender and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit.

There are a couple practical ways we might grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit.....

1. Finding an environment where others are desiring to grow in a similar way

- Teaching that aligns with Jesus' teachings on the Holy Spirit
- A safe place to "step out in faith" among like-minded believers
- A focus on building up the body through the gifts of the Spirit
- Be around others who are exercising prophecy, filled with faith to pray for healing, recognize spiritual temperature and conditions of an environment/situation.

2. Ask, seek and knock

- As Jesus, teaches set your mind to pray and ask God the Father to give an increasing measure of the Holy Spirit for His glory and the good of the Body.
- Waiting on God tests our motives and true intentions, and tends to weed out those who are just looking to exalt self.

3. A Posture of Yieldedness, Attentiveness and Responsiveness

- We yield ourselves to the Spirit's work - whether it's in our own character and maturity or as we may speak and act on another's behalf. We are surrendered to obeying no matter what the cost.
- We are attentive to what the Spirit is doing, or how He is moving in a person or situation, or in ourselves. We pray for spiritual revelation to see things that are going on in the spiritual realm.
- We are responsive to how the Spirit is prompting us... Is he inviting to sacrificially love one another through serving, or to speak to one another a word of exhortation/encouragement. We act on what we sense the prompting is. We will feel awkward and make mistakes, but being in a safe space, and with motives to love the body, we will grow in our relationship with the Spirit.

4. Striving for holy, righteous living

- We remember that the Spirit is a *Holy* Spirit and that we can create disharmony in the relationship through sin.
- Pursuing the humility of Jesus will place us on a path toward right living with God and others.
- The Spirit is grieved by relational strife in the body and so we strive to live rightly and at peace with all.

4. What is the relationship between fellowship in the body and the Holy Spirit?

*“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2**complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”*

Philippians 2:1

*“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2**with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3**eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4**There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5**one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6**one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7**But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ”*

Ephesians 4:1-6

What is fellowship of the Spirit?

These passages, among others, make a direct connection between the fellowship and participation of the body to the work of the Holy Spirit.

Fellowship of the Spirit refers to the deep, relational and spiritual bond that believers’ experience through the indwelling presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

One of the results of the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost was the fellowship of the believers we read of in Acts:

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43**And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44**And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45**And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46**And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47**praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

Acts 2:42-47

Fellowship is a by-product of the Holy Spirit

As we exercise and grow in *yielding, attentiveness* and *responsiveness* to the Holy Spirit, he produces fruit in our lives and in our relationships. If a community of believers is experiencing the *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness* and *self control*(see page 34), it’s going to enable us to experience a deep sense of unity and peace.

Additionally, as we exercise, gifts of the Spirit, which are meant to build and strengthen the body, the fellowship of the Spirit is further strengthened.

Restricted Spirit = weak, superficial fellowship

It should be a natural conclusion then that if the Holy Spirit is limited, ignored, restricted in some sense when we are gathered we will likely experience a weak, superficial degree of fellowship.

What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and worship?

Worship in the Spirit

Scripture informs us that worship is **awakened, sustained and energized by the same Spirit of God** that manifests himself through the gifts.

Many scriptures allude to and make this connection for us:

John 4:21-24 “Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22**You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23**But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. **24**God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

1 Corinthians 14:13-15: Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. **14**For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. **15**What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Ephesians 5:18-20 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Philippians 3:3 “For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— **4**though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also.”

Acts 10:44-46 “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. **45**And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. **46**For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.”

Acts 13:2-3 “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3**Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

1. The Necessity of the Spirit for Worship:

Scripture clearly lays out the necessity of the Holy Spirit for biblical, genuine, Christ-exalting worship. **Without the Holy Spirit, worship can degenerate into man exalting religious performance far removed from the true, biblical worship that pleases God.**

2. Intellectual and Relational Aspects of Worship:

Worship is not merely reciting facts and intellectual truths about God, it is that, but it also glorifying God by our emotional and relational enjoyment of Him.

Does enjoying God, emotionally and relationally in worship, sound too light-hearted or flippant or just too casual?

Psalms 90:14 “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all

our days”

John Piper has said *“God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him.”*

John Edwards said *“Now what is glorifying God, but a rejoicing at the glory that He has displayed? An understanding of the perfection of God, merely, cannot be the end of the creation; for he had as good not understand it, as see it and not at all be moved with joy at the sight. Neither can the highest end of creation, be the declaring God’s glory to other; for the declaring God’s glory is good for nothing otherwise than to raise joy in ourself and at others at what is declared.”*

The enjoyment of, and delight in, God is a most crucial ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enables us to not only learn truths about God in our times of worship, but to also experience Him.

Are you free, internally, to actually enjoy God in worship?

When God’s people worship, he goes to war on their behalf. (2 Chronicles 20)

When God’s people worship, He enthrones himself in their midst. (Psalm 22:3)

When God’s people worship, He speaks to them and guides them. (Acts 13:1-3)

When God’s people worship, he delivers them from their trouble or comforts and sustain them them in the midst of hardship. (Acts 16:19-40)

3. The Holy Spirit and How We Worship:

Worship is to be grounded in the Word of God and to be an accurate theological picture of the truth in the scriptures. **True worship, however, must also be characterized by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.**

When people are filled with the Spirit they tend to break out in spontaneous praise and celebration, God speaks, and people can receive physical, emotional and relational healing.

Singing in the Spirit:

Ephesians 5 gives us a picture of being filled with the Spirit which causes people to erupt in singing - psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

To be filled with the Spirit involves a continuous, active surrender through which the Holy Spirit controls and influences the believer, and that control manifests itself in such a way that it’s as obvious and noticeable as those who are under the control of alcohol.

4. What are the marks of this Holy Spirit controlled believer (Eph. 5:18-21):

1. Speaking to one another in ministry
2. Singing to the Lord (wholehearted worship in corporate fellowship)

3. Gratitude (for all things at all times)
4. Mutual submission (as opposed to being self-assertive and demanding)

Psalms - most likely refers to the OT book of Psalms. In 1 Corinthians 14:26, Paul encourages believers to come with a “psalm” to share or offer.

Hymns - Refers to any human composition that focuses on God or Christ. Hannah’s song in 1 Samuel 2, or the song of Moses in Exodus 15 would be examples. In the New Testament, Philippians 2:6-11 and Colossians 1:15-20 would be good examples.

Spirituals Songs - Notice it’s not merely songs, but *spiritual* songs. Sam Storms asks “*Could this be Paul’s way of distinguishing between songs that are previously composed versus songs that are spontaneously birthed in the midst of corporate worship by the Spirit himself?*”

These could be short melodies that are unrehearsed and improvised. They aren’t prepared in advance, though there is nothing wrong with the Spirit imparting a song to a believer at a prior time.

5. What to do if you find yourself uncomfortable or confused:

1. Listen and learn: The general context of Ephesians 5:18-20 seems to be a corporate worship setting, therefore *spiritual singing* is for the benefit of the entire congregation. Ask the Spirit to help you understand what is being shared and to stir your own affections and desires for God. Be open, but testing, what is being shared in those times of worship.

2. Sing the Same Song: Pay attention to the melody line and if it lasts more than one time through, join in the singing!

3. Sing your own *spiritual song*: You could take whatever truth God has been highlighting in your own heart and put it to the melody.

4. Pray and give thanks: Use the time to intercede for yourself and others. Let the song being sung be turned into a prayer on behalf of the congregation. Turn their spiritual song into personal intercession.

6. Postures of Praise:

Worship involves our bodies as well as our hearts and minds. **Our posture communicates something to God and others.** Our posture speaks loudly, but of course, it can be manufactured. Or perhaps, the person is trying to awaken their spirit for worship by responding with their body even when they are quite there yet!

Raising hands:

Some people raise hands and other don’t. Each person has to know in their heart what they are doing and why they are doing it. **However, there is considerable biblical precedent for raising of hands in prayer and worship.**

Psalms 63:4 “So I will bless you as long as you live; in your name I will lift up my hands.”

Psalm 88:9 “Every day I call out to you, O Lord, I spread out my hands to you.”

Psalm 134:2 “Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord!”

(See others - Psalm 141:1-2, 2 Chronicles 6:12-13, Ezra 9:5, Nehemiah 8:6, 1 Timothy 8:2)

Other Postures:

Kneeling, dancing, clapping, prostrate, palms up (as receiving something)

The Holy Spirit awakens, sustains and energizes the people of God to worship God.

If the Spirit is quenched, grieved or otherwise ignored, what will that do for the genuine worship of God’s people?

(Resources used - ESV Study bible and “Practicing the Power” by Sam Storms - chp 12 (p213-235))

5. How do we create/allow space for the Holy Spirit to move when we gather?

If the ministry of the Holy Spirit is essential to fellowship, to building up the body, and igniting worship then we should be especially careful and thoughtful about how our gatherings are structured.

1 Corinthians 14, a section of scripture dedicated to the use of gifts in our gatherings, ends with a reminder that *“all things should be done decently and in order”*. In verse 33, Paul also reminds us that *“God is not a God of confusion but of peace”*.

There is a tension to hold between allowing the unscheduled, unplanned and maintaining a sense of order. Traditionally, we tend to lean towards one side to the neglect of the other. There is no one size fits all answer here as to what our gatherings should look. Scripture does lay out some principles though:

“26What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. 27If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. 28But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. 29Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, 32and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. 33For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.”

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

This passage, among other places, describes a gathering that is interactive and allows for multiple people to exercise gifts of the Spirit. There’s a certain openness to the Spirit speaking into their midst, in the very moments where they are gathered and a freedom to voice what you think God might be saying. There’s a certain lack of complete control evident in this passage. It’s not a complete loss of control, but there is certainly some autonomy for the people to step out in faith.

This sort of environment, ultimately, cannot be taught, it must be experienced. It takes some, breaking the routines and patterns of ways we are used to “doing church” in order for others to be able to see what it looks like.

Practically speaking, sermon/messages can be kept short in order to allow space for unstructured, responsive prayer and discussion. In some way, we have to get people to engage their minds with scripture and this can happen through interaction with others, in prayer. Getting up and moving while we are praying or worshiping begins to break the mold that we have to stay in our seat and not be a distraction.

Opportunities to share testimonies of how God is working and speaking into peoples’ lives inspires and builds up the body.

Creating a culture where we are spiritually “listening” to what God by His Spirit is saying and allowing for that to be vocalized (with discernment) to the gathering. Again, there is no RIGHT way, we must be sensitive to what the Spirit is doing and what the makeup of the body is.

6. What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

“22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” 23And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom

cannot stand. **25**And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. **26**And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. **27**But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. **28**"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, **29**but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— **30**for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

Mark 3:22-30

31Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. **32**And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."

Matthew 12:31-32

Sin = disobedience towards God

Blasphemy = defiant irreverence towards God

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is characterized by...

- Willful unbelief
- Persistent refusal
- Continual denial/rejection of God's grace in Christ

Practical Implications....

- The unforgivable sin is a sin of the heart
- When a person rejects the ministry of the Holy Spirit in revealing sin, the only avenue for forgiveness (repentance) is rejected.
- There will be NO truly repentant person who is rejected at the final judgement.

Application:

- Beware of rejecting what you know to be true
 - Gradual slide is most often the case.
 - Hearts don't harden in an instant, but slowly, therefore guard your heart.

Theology of the Kingdom

Now and Not Yet

October 2025

"Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and

healing every disease and every affliction among the people”

Matthew 4:23

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel”

Mark 1:15

Introduction:

Aside from salvation, there is hardly a more important concept and reality to understand than the kingdom of God. Now before we seek to understand its importance, you might be asking....

What is the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God, simply put, **is the rule and reign of God**. While in our modern language we may think of a kingdom as a geographical piece of land with defined boundaries. While, in some sense, this is not entirely inaccurate, **basileia is the authoritative rule of the king**. The idea of the kingdom as a realm, or as subjects, are secondary meanings.

The Kingdom of God:

The scriptures speak of the kingdom of God in both **present and future tenses**, which makes understanding the kingdom a bit more difficult.

In the above passage from the gospel of Mark, Jesus clearly states that the “kingdom of God is at hand” referring to a **present reality** and not some future state.

Later in Mark, we read “it is better to enter the kingdom of heaven with one eye than with two eyes and be thrown into hell” Here we see Jesus referring to the kingdom as a **future reality**.

In his book “The Gospel of the Kingdom” George Ladd, citing these two contrasting truths, describes the kingdom as **NOW and NOT YET**. It’s here now, but will only be fully realized in the future.

So WHAT??!!

Now you might be wondering how this makes any difference in your life. While it might seem irrelevant at the outset, the present tense reality of the kingdom of God is extremely relevant to your everyday life.

The NOW Kingdom:

The fact that the kingdom is here NOW has a significant impact on the way we live our lives. We can experience foretastes of the NOT YET kingdom in our present, day to day, normal lives. **We can experience healing from sin, sickness and sorrow NOW. We can experience freedom, guilt, shame and fear NOW.** With that being said, we also know that God uses challenges and difficulties in our lives to shape and form us. He also redeems our suffering in ways we often don’t understand, at least in the moment.

A balanced perspective on the kingdom of God is profoundly important for how to process life with

God. Too heavy on one side or the other and our growth is likely to be stunted.

A heavy view of the future kingdom of God can lead us to live our days simply trying to survive in hopes that THE day will come soon. We may lack confidence, faith filled risk and motivation to change.

Likewise, a heavy view of the present kingdom of God might lead us to become discouraged and disillusioned when we don't experience healing, relief from our circumstances, or freedom from the sin we continue to struggle with.

A balanced perspective cultivates within us both, an expectancy of God's healing and power now, while also understanding that God doesn't always remove the suffering or sickness from us.

A NOW kingdom, and the command of Jesus to “do the works that I do” (John 14:12) compel us to walk in faith, exercising the gifts of the Spirit in the everyday situations and circumstances we find ourselves in.

