



THE TEACHING ABOUT

THE HOLY SPIRIT

commonground
church

GROUNDDED 2

Talks 29-33 of Michael Eaton's Whole Counsel of God series

OVERVIEW OF SECTION:

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 1 (TALK 29):
THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT/THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Introduction
2. The Person of the Holy Spirit/The Work of the Holy Spirit

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 2 (TALK 30):
THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SCRIPTURE

1. The Person of the Holy Spirit
2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 3 (TALK 31):
THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH (1 CORINTHIANS 12, 13 & 14)

1. The person of the Holy Spirit (Talk 29)
2. The Work of the Holy Spirit (30)
3. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the church

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 4 (TALK 32): THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT/LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 4. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian
- C. Life in the Spirit

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 5 (TALK 33): THE GIFT OF TONGUES/ THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER/ COMMANDS CONCERNING THE SPIRIT

- C. Life in the Spirit (Cont)

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 1: THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT/THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TALK 29

Contents:

- A. Introduction
- B. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

ME has presented all of this as a journey so far – steps along the way (i.e. Creation, Creation of Man, Fall, Promise of a Saviour etc). But now there is a time to pause. Stop and look around and see three things. See all the way through the Holy Spirit has been there – in every stage. You also see at every stage God has been speaking, explaining and telling. You also see that salvation is corporate (i.e. the church) – and this is also a theme that goes throughout Scripture.

Genesis 1v1-3

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² 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. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Finally we see that salvation will be completed (The last things). These are now the themes that will occupy the remainder of The Whole Counsel of God – The Holy Spirit, The Word, The Church and The Last Things.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This is in many ways the most threatening teaching because it is the most reliant on experience. You are actually experiencing God through the Holy Spirit. You are not looking at what someone has done for you but rather what God is doing in you. Some people see it as very threatening and scary doctrine. Other people view this as the most exciting thing on the whole earth! The Holy Spirit can therefore be threatening to some and exhilarating to others!

Throughout the entire church history people have treated this doctrine in certain ways: People tend towards formalism and tradition – ignore the Spirit despite it being central to church history.

1 Thessalonians 5v19

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

The activity of the Holy Spirit slows down after the Day of Pentecost as early as AD60 – the tendency towards formalism started early. Revivals can end. Even before the end of the New Testament you see that the revival starts to tail off. You see this in the life of Paul where the miraculous changes over time. EG miraculous escapes earlier in his ministry but then it tapers off and he suffers greatly. Then there is a miraculous encounter again on the Island of Malta. The point is that the revival (God's unusual intervention) does end.

People tend to extremism – as reaction to formalism, others go too far the other way. Montanism is one such movement (Tertullian was the most famous member – he saw more life there than elsewhere) – it was a wild extreme. The Reformation also had wild fringes. The Quakers were from this mould. These movements quickly develop a extremist fringe however (i.e. don't need the Bible, people make Messianic claims). Often they encourage people to join them in a new movement that they themselves were not living in successfully – it hasn't succeeded in their own circle yet but they want you to do it. They can't demonstrate it first and then teach it. They want to use the Orthodox Church to demonstrate their theories. ME calls this the "6 months" syndrome in Kenya or the "winds and the waves" syndrome in South Africa – a new revelation comes along every 6 months. ME gives a few stories about this (14:00 – 18:10) – e.g. "taking healing by faith" and how damaging some of these extremist theories can be.

People tend to phenomena-ism – where God is powerfully at work, strange things do happen – side effects (i.e. fall to the ground) – What do you do about it?

- Encourage it?
- Suppress it?

ME suggests doing nothing:

Not good to stop it (grieve Holy Spirit by stamping out the true)

Don't call special meetings to experience the phenomena. Don't glamourise these experiences.

ME suggests that we must not institutionalise the phenomena. The Toronto blessing was from God – but not right to then try and have Toronto meetings – ME felt setup by people trying to get him to fall down. The first move is real but then others try and institutionalise it. The beginnings of many phenomena are from God but then they go awry.

The remedy - Be thoroughly Biblical. Be honest with yourself. Don't try and produce an effect. Test people according to their fruit. Preach the gospel!

ME reckons that given these various extremes of attitude towards the Holy Spirit (formalism and extremism), he would prefer extremism – rather have the problems of life than the problems of death. Ideally we should have neither!

1. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DIVINE

- Divine Title - the Holy Spirit is God and therefore divine.
- Divine Attributes - the Holy Spirit has the attributes of God – The Spirit is everywhere, omnipresent, knows all things, is eternal etc

Hebrews 9 v14

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?

Divine Activities - the Holy Spirit is involved in creation, regeneration, intercedes for us, conceives Jesus Christ in a virgin womb

Why does the New Testament not make more of the deity of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the quiet, self-effacing member of The Trinity. The Bible states that the Spirit glorifies Jesus - when the Spirit is present, He does not glorify himself, He glorifies Jesus. The songs should always be about Jesus when the Spirit is at work.

There are times when you expect the Spirit to be mentioned but it is not:

1 John 1v3

³ That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Why is the Spirit not mentioned?

The Spirit is not so bothered about mentioning himself – having inspired the Scriptures – the Spirit points towards Jesus and the Father.

The Holy Spirit is a Person

The Spirit is not an “It”.

1. The Spirit acts in personal sense – talks, encourages etc.
2. The Spirit can be grieved, angered and vexed
3. The Spirit has personal titles – John uses the masculine pronoun (breaking Greek grammar) in order to use the personal nature of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the supreme gift of the New Covenant

The Holy Spirit is the promise and gift of the Father. Getting the Spirit is the greatest gift we can experience in this life.

1. The Spirit is the promise of blessing that was first promised to Abraham.
2. The Spirit is the answer to the Lord’s Prayer. In Luke, Jesus is giving us a prayer list of the things that we need. Jesus then tells a parable showing that the Holy Spirit is the answer to the Lord’s Prayer (Kingdom come, daily bread etc). It is by the Spirit that God’s name is glorified, that his Kingdom comes etc. He is the answer of the requests of the Lord’s Prayer.

Luke 11v1-13

¹ Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² And he said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’” ⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If 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!”

3. He is the executive of the Godhead

- The Father plans salvation
- Jesus mediates salvation
- The Spirit executes salvation

It is the same with creation – the Spirit executes it – brings life into being.

4. The Spirit is the giver of experience – illuminates Scripture etc.

B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Spirit executes the plans of the Father
- The Spirit executes creation – brooding over the deep – the heavens are made by the breathing out of His Spirit.

Psalm 33v6

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth, all their host.

- The Spirit is there in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ – the virgin conception was a work of The Spirit.
- The Spirit is present at the birth of Jesus – everyone is singing and praising because the Spirit is at work.

Luke 1v67

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied

5. The Spirit is present at the baptism of Jesus. What is happening here? Not getting saved, not getting the Spirit for the first time. Jesus was receiving an anointing of power to do His work. Intensification of the power of the Spirit. If Jesus couldn't function without the anointing and enabling of The Spirit, how much more do we need the Spirit?

Luke 3 v21-22

²¹ 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."

6. The Spirit is at work during the death and resurrection of Jesus.
7. Jesus, exalted and glorified, is now in the position to give the Holy Spirit to others.

1 Corinthians 15v45

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

What is happening when Jesus breathes on his disciples after the resurrection?

John 20v21-22

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

ME believes that the New Birth was being upgraded. We have resurrection power from this point on. The Spirit was available for new birth before then, but now there is resurrection power. The day of Pentecost is another moment of upgrade – this time with Ascension power! The Holy Spirit is flowing at every point in the ministry of Jesus – we must seek the same.

There is a difference though:

Jesus has The Spirit without measure (John 3v34) whereas we have only a measure of the gifts of the Spirit (Eph 4v7). We don't have every gift that there is. We get given a portion of the gift Jesus has. Jesus didn't have this limit. We are given gifts according to the measure of Christ.

John 3v34

³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

Ephesians 4v7

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

This makes sense of John 14v12 – we don't go around doing more miracles than Jesus did as individuals but rather the work of the Spirit will take salvation to another level as the church is empowered by the Spirit.

John 14v12

¹² "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.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 2

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SCRIPTURE

TALK 30

Contents:

- B. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

2. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (CONTINUED)

THE SPIRIT IN THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

The Spirit is one who reveals Scripture

1 Cor 2 – ME reckons this is the chapter that the 21st Century needs more than any other – because we are living at the end of the Enlightenment (where we placed our trust in our own abilities). He went into some background of how Philosophy has become increasingly sceptical. You end up saying that you do not know anything. God interrupts this and reveals Himself. The ultimate foundation of all thought is based on revelation not reason.

“The supreme achievement of reason is to recognise that there is a limit to reason” Pascal

1 Corinthians 2

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ 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. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

All revelation is brought by the Spirit. There is no way that we can know the thoughts of someone else unless they communicate their thoughts with us. It is the same with God – the Spirit communicates the thoughts of God to us.

The Spirit inspires the expression of the revelation (i.e. the Spirit inspires preaching)

The Spirit inspires:

1. Revelation
2. The expression of the Revelation
3. Revelation is put into Scripture
4. Our understanding is by the Spirit

2 Tim 3v16

¹⁶ 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 competent, equipped for every good work.

The emphasis is on the Scripture being “breathed out” by the Spirit – it originates and is expressed by God.

2 Peter 1v20-21

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Again, the Revelation is carried along by the Spirit. At all stages, the Spirit is at work.

The final stage is that the Spirit helps us to understand the revelation. It is as if we have 2 veils – one over our minds and another one over our hearts – the Spirit needs to remove both of these for us to bear witness to the truth of God.

2 Cor 3v12-18

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end.

¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ 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.

In this passage from 2 Cor 3, Paul is working out the practicalities of Exodus 33 (when Moses went to be with God). The way it works is that the Spirit is the Lord that is taking away the veil and transforming us from one degree of glory to another. It is all coming from the Spirit.

The Spirit does all the work to reveal truth to us.

ME is a great believer in experiencing the Spirit but he doesn't know of any Biblical Scholar who believes in experiencing the Spirit as you read the Bible. They often believe vaguely that the Spirit is at work. ME believes that it is more than that. ME tells the story of Luther and the Reformation. Luther got stuck at when he was down to lecture on a bit of Scripture:

Romans 1v17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

In the gospel, there is the power of God revealed. But Luther had a problem there, how can God's righteousness be good news? God's righteousness punishes us!

Luther beat upon that text night and day feeling like he couldn't see what it meant – until one day he saw that it is good news because it speaks of God's covering righteousness. It is good news because we are covered with the righteousness of God and we can stand before God. He experienced the Spirit in reading Scripture. God is opening your eyes!

Sometimes you will read a verse that you've read many times before but it will be as though you're reading it for the first time.

ME saw it in:

James 2v5

⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

God has chosen the poor – no debate about it – ME knew it, but one day the Spirit opened his heart and mind to really see it! It brings you great certainty. It is not the giving of a new revelation – it is the removing of a veil to show you a truth that has always been there.

THE SPIRIT IS AT WORK IN THE CHRISTIAN

The Spirit is the one who brings us to new birth, is at work in our lives, baptises us with the Spirit etc. This is a massive topic. The approach taken will be to focus on John (great expositor of the new birth and life in the Spirit), Paul (great expositor of the ongoing work of the Spirit)

Writings of John

The first mention of the Spirit in John's writing:

John 1v32

³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ 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 sees his cousin in a whole new light.

Jesus' characteristic work is to take away sin – the Greek word implies present continuous. He doesn't just take away sin, it is also His characteristic work to baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus has a two part ministry – he removes and gives. He removes sin and gives the Spirit.

The work "baptise" speaks of something big/gigantic and important. He saturates you.

The second mention is in the teaching to Nicodemus:

John 3v1-8

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and

the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That 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."

Jesus is echoing Ezekiel – the promise of the new covenant. In v5 Jesus is not teaching that baptism is required for salvation. The Spirit can be poured out before baptism. The water here in v5 is an echo of Ezekiel – saying that the Saviour will wash the people clean. It is the cleansing work of the Spirit. So it is the Spirit that gives us a new nature, heart, mentality love, disposition, heart, understanding. This is a sheer miracle. It is new creation.

The third mention is in John 4 with the women at the well:

John 4v24

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Worship is in the Spirit.

The fourth time is:

John 6v63

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

It is the Spirit that gives life.

The fifth time is:

John 7v37-39

³⁷ 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.

The Spirit is like streams of living water

The sixth mention:

John 14v16-17

¹⁶And 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.

The Spirit is another Helper – the one who comes alongside you. To become your counsellor, advisor and friend. Jesus has been the Helper until now but now the Spirit will be at work.

The Spirit is truth – we often think the Spirit to be one of power but the Spirit is more the Spirit of truth. Power comes upon us when we know truth. Our assurance of the truth is in itself our power. It is not an electrical current power. Power is not sheer naked electricity, the Spirit is supremely the Spirit of Truth and it guides us into the Truth. The power is largely in connection with the truth. We often misuse the phrase “Word and Spirit”. ME has the following problems with it:

1. It should be Word, Spirit and Life.

1 Thes v4-5

⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

Notice that the Word and Spirit produced a transformed life. A 2-legged chair can't stand.

2. Often when we refer to “Spirit” we often mean phenomena – Paul meant that the power came upon the Word. The Spirit converts and that is the great power we should desire. The signs do not save people, the gospel does.

John 14v25-26

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ 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.

The Spirit teaches and brings to remembrance all that Jesus taught.

John 15v26

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

The Spirit bears witness about Jesus.

John 16v13-14

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.

The Spirit glorifies Jesus as He takes from Him and declares Him to us. The Spirit does not speak about Himself – He glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ.

John explains all these things before Jesus has even poured out the Spirit on Pentecost. These are the basics of what the Spirit is doing.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 3

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH (1 CORINTHIANS 12, 13 & 14)

TALK 31

Contents:

B. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

1. The person of the Holy Spirit (Talk 29)
2. The Work of the Holy Spirit (30)
3. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the church

3. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

1 Cor 12 v 1- 11

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore 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. ⁴ 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.

Paul writes 1 Corinthians 12-14 in order to deal with the gifts of The Holy Spirit. The chapter on love is in the middle because sometimes when focusing on the gifts, love can be sidelined.

The church in Corinth was both Paul's best and worst church! It was the liveliest and lacking in no spiritual gift. It was an empowered and gifted church. Yet, it also gave him many headaches: broken marriages, divisions, rivalries, meetings were chaos, immorality. Nevertheless Paul doesn't get too upset – better to have some life with problems in it than a dead church with no problems.

The biggest trouble was that they were misusing the use of the gifts of the Spirit. They had the problems of life.

1. Some people are scared of the Spirit – they dampen everything (Problems of death)
 - a. People will not witness to others
 - b. People do not fast and prayer
 - c. No one believes in miracles

2. Some people want excitement – things get out of control (Problems of life)
 - a. People witness in a wild, chaotic way (ME tells the story of people grabbing others and not letting them go back to work until they were saved)
 - b. People fast too much and get too skinny (ME tells the story of a lady who looked so sick because she was fasting for 3 weeks, planning to keep going for 40 days, ME released her!)
 - c. Everything needs to be a miracle, no such thing as the natural

Ideally the church should have no problems – these situations maybe funny but often they are tragic. That is why Paul doesn't want people to be ignorant.

ME feels the same way about South Africa, there are many encouraging signs and he feels that a kind of quiet revival is taking place. ME says that where a church is moving, you can be sure that there will be persecution and Satan will be aroused. There will always be extremism – the history books often keep quiet about the lunatic fringe. Edwards wrote a book "The distinguishing marks of a Revival" in order to try and differentiate between the lunatic fringe and true revival.

The true signs that God is at work according Edwards:

1. When people are saved (Satan can't preach the gospel)
2. People have unity and love (Satan can't do that)
3. The sweeping power of holiness (Satan can't do that)

Paul makes the following points:

Anything wild – is not necessarily God

1 Cor 12v2

“You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.”

The noisier it is, the more God is there. It is not wise to attribute wildness to God. Paul points out they were wild pagans before they were saved – they were wild but yet led astray. The point is that a phenomenon doesn't prove anything. The AntiChrist will come with signs and wonders.

Paul points out that you may feel led but that doesn't mean that that it is God. ME tells of the prayer requests from the Hindu temple – they were identical. People love contact with the spiritual realm – people haven't become atheists, they have become superstitious. People don't go to Atheism when they don't believe in God, they start to believe in inferior gods.

The test is whether or not Jesus is honoured – this is a preliminary test.

1 Cor 12v3

“Therefore 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.”

Is Jesus glorified? The test is not the phenomena, the test is the message. ME gives the example of a Bishop who along with his wife stole babies. There are genuine and sincere people who are led astray and make mistakes.

The ordinary is more important than the extraordinary. The ordinary of the New Testament must not be pushed out by the extraordinary. There has been a pendulum swing towards the extraordinary. Surely when you read the book of Acts, you see them preaching the gospel, witnessing, leading godly lives, praying for one another, using their common sense. Use the ordinary things first – let God add the icing on the cake, but have the cake as well!

Remember that the church is variety in unity.

1 Cor 12v4

“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.”

Everyone has a gift that is for the common good. The church needs to guard its unity. The church needs to guard its variety. When people go towards extremities, they tend to focus on one aspect and push variety out. People have the tendency to say that they want the Spirit and they put away the Bible. People have done that now for the past 50 years – people are ignorant of their Bibles. In living in a vacuum, many things can enter in and toss people around by every wind and wave of doctrine. When the church is at work, it is unified and there is also variety. God never repeats Himself – no 2 leaves are identical, no 2 snowflakes are alike, no 2 people are alike – the church is not meant to be like Post-It stamps – all alike – there needs to be variety. This is all for the common good. All different but all building up the body. A cult is uniform, but not the church!

1 Cor 12v 8 - 11

“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.”

You cannot take something that God is not giving. The Spirit gives as he wills – often the cult/the system will try and take something that God is not giving. You can't switch God on/claims things. Miracles always surprise. By definition, a miracle is a wonder, because you are amazed. By definition it doesn't happen very often. God moves as He wills and wonderful things happen.

ME is not against miracles – there are many wonderful stories – he bought a book recently on John Walsh. He was a mighty man of prayer who led many others to the Lord. One day a student of his died and the family arrived with a coffin. A whole 2 days went by and he wasn't raised. He got one more hour. The student was raised from the dead. The whole town knew about it! You cannot switch this on – it is if God wills. It is the kind of thing that happens in Acts 3 – one day Peter gets the gift of faith and a miracle happens. He passed him many days before but one that day Peter was given the prayer of faith. You cannot take a miracle, it is a gift.

Paul then works through the body metaphor in the rest of 1 Cor 12:

- He points out that no one can opt out of the body of Christ – you will damage yourself if you try.
- God has arranged the body and each is important – every part is needed.
- We all care for each other and no one should be missing without at least 10 people noticing
- Do not try and standardise the church – there is variety in unity
- “I will show you a most excellent way” to desire the gifts of the Spirit – desire them in order to love the church of Christ. It is not coming out of rivalry, pride – you want to bless others – 1 Cor 13

Paul then goes on to 1 Cor 14 and speaks about tongues. The main point is that the comprehensible is more important than the incomprehensible. When you are an extremist – you love the irrational – it is valued because you feel that it must be from God. The Corinthians were doing this – and Paul says that others would think that you were mad if they visited. Paul says that he would rather speak 5 comprehensible words than 1000 incomprehensible words. Wildness doesn't build others up because they do not know what is going on. When God is present, there is a divine chaos, you sense that God is in control. People are being convicted of their sin, the gospel is being preached, prophecy is occurring (ME points out that we sometimes misuse the word prophecy because we use it to mean "predict" (i.e. I prophecy that you will have 2 children) when the Bible uses it to mean "speak out". We are all promised this if we are in bad trouble because of Jesus – you will find that God is with you in that moment – you are being given what to say).

Earnestly desire the best gifts –these gifts are speaking words that are comprehensible and build others up. This is better than wild, irrational talk (which only edifies you). Like in Romans 8, groans that help you when words are not able to come out, they help you but not others. Sometimes music helps as well when words fail but they only build you up.

Let the excitements come but don't live on them. Praise God when they come but don't live on them.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 4

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT/LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

TALK 32

Contents:

- 4. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian
- C. Life in the Spirit

4. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTIAN

ME has already looked at the work of Spirit in rebirth, now we will look at the baptism of the Spirit. ME doesn't think that it is the same as conversion but it should happen speedily at the time of conversion.

The Baptism of the Spirit

What is the method that we should pursue? What is the way in which you settle upon a theology? What is your method?

Your theology is what you come to once you have read the entire Bible and expounded it to yourself. Here is the step-by-step method that ME suggests:

You need to begin with a survey of Scripture – don't focus on a few passages – need to read the entire text.

When the Charismatic movement started, some didn't like the emphasis on experience, and so it was subjected to hostility. The critics would quote one verse:

1 Cor 12v13

¹³ For 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.

This said that we are all joined into the body in a quiet way and nothing further is needed. Or they would quote another verse:

Eph 5v18

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

John Stott spoke on the Charismatic movement and tried to get rid of it by quoting 2 texts. ME was there as a teenager and found it strange.

- 1 Cor 12 is not speaking about the outpouring of the Spirit – it is dealing with the Spirit joining us to the body of Christ.
- Eph 5v18 is not dealing with the outpouring of the Spirit.

You could agree with everything Stott was saying and be a Charismatic because what he was saying was not dealing with the outpouring of the Spirit. You should not build an entire doctrine on one verse.

The baptism of the Spirit is spoken of in 6 or 7 places – you need to survey them all – and realise that there are many other terms used that refer to the same thing. ME reckons that there are about a dozen terms used that refer to the Baptism of the Spirit.

Here are some of these interchangeable terms:

Being baptised in the Spirit:

- The promise of the Father
- The Spirit comes or falls on people
- You shall receive power
- You will be filled with the Spirit
- The Spirit is poured out (this term is used throughout the entire Scriptures)
- The Gift of the Spirit
- Received (“received” is not used when you first come to faith, it is always used of some conscious experience, Gal 3 “Did you receive the Spirit...)
- The Spirit fell on somebody

- Anointed (Acts 10)
- Down payment
- Sealed
- First fruits
- John 14-16 is all about the new blessing that is yet to come – born again, Spirit will be breathed on you

Start in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 32 v 15

¹⁵ 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.

Isaiah 44 v 3-5

³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.⁴ They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.⁵ This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,' (Gift of Assurance) another will call on the name of Jacob, (Gift of Prayer) and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name himself by the name of Israel." (Sense of Identity)

Ezekiel 39 v 29

²⁹ 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."

Zechariah 12 v10

¹⁰ And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Joel 2v28-29

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and (BS) your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.²⁹ Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Matthew 3v11

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3v16

¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Mark 1v10-11

¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3 v 21-22

²¹ 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 4 v 14 and v18

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, 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."

Luke 24 v 48-49

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."

- John 1v33
- John 7 – living water
- John 4 – women at the well
- John 14-17
- Acts 1,2,8,10,11,19
- Romans 5v5
- Romans 8v14
- 2 Corinthians 1
- 2 Corinthians 5v5 – sure of the resurrection body
- Galatians 3 – receive the promised Holy Spirit
- Ephesians 1v14 – a bit if heaven to go to heaven in
- Ephesians 4v13 – sealed
- Titus 3v5 – washing and regeneration and then beyond that an outpouring

All of this sweeps away the faulty approach of using a few verses to do away with the Charismatic movement.

Your theology is what you come to once you have read the entire Bible and expounded it to yourself. Here is the step-by-step method that ME suggests.

After this, you start to ask yourself questions

WARNING: Now you must expound the Scriptures with these questions in mind. ME warns us that you must not approach the Scriptures with preconceived doctrines in mind – that will lead you to twist Scripture. For example, some do NOT believe the outpouring of the Spirit to be an experience. Surely the outpouring of the Spirit is experiential though – can you receive power without knowing it? Did anyone on the day of Pentecost not know that they had experienced something? They have twisted Scripture because of their bias.

What is the outpouring of the Spirit? How is it received? What is the relationship with tongues?

The “What is the outpouring?” question is more important than the “When does it occur?” question. But the When? and What? answers effect each other. For instance, if you believe the Spirit is poured out at salvation, you have to downgrade the what (so the when changes the what). Similarly if you say that the outpouring is part of conversion, then you would have to admit that there are not so many people who have the power and that they are not saved (so the what has changed the when).

ME tells the story of going to see JI Packer. ME asked him some questions about the argument that the baptism is an initial experience – Packer interrupted him and said “It is an initial event, not an experience”. It happens to you but you don’t know about it. ME chatted to John Stott (and even went to his school when he was a boy). They chatted about the Baptism of the Spirit – ME said to Stott that he uses the word “experience” but he doesn’t actually mean it. Stott did agree. Although he did say that he believed in joy unspeakable even though he didn’t want to use the word experience.

Regeneration is not experienced – it is a secret hidden work of God. But that is not so for the Baptism of the Spirit – on the day of Pentecost there was a definite experience. It is conscious and experiential.

What are the main ingredients of the Baptism of the Spirit?

1. Power – you will receive power from on high
2. Assurance – sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Your salvation is objective and confirmed subjectively. It is the down payment – a little of your final reward now. It is a foretaste of glory. How can this NOT be experiential? ME quotes from a commentary in relation to this text:

Eph 1v13-14

¹³ 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.

The commentator (O'Brien) believes that this passage is an exception of Greek grammar – because he doesn't like what that would mean. This needs to be a warning to us not to twist Scripture.

3. Prayer – you cry “Abba, Father” – an intimacy is experienced

How is the gift of the Spirit received?

Normally this occurs with salvation but sometimes there is a holdup. This could be for a few reasons:

- If you are unsure of the gospel (i.e. Acts 19 - they weren't fully seeing the gospel. They were called disciples, so it wasn't their conversion, it was a new level of experience). John Wesley is a great example of this – he received power many years after he had been preaching. He thought it was his conversion moment – it wasn't – it was an outpouring of the Spirit. I had the faith of a servant, but then I had the faith of a son.
- Sin and lack of commitment will hold us up. If you are in rebellion, you can't expect much blessing.

1. We receive the Spirit as we seek Jesus:

John 7 v 37-38

³⁷ 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.

2. We receive it through laying on of hands in prayer – although ME is nervous of this today because of the age in which we live.

C. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Romans 8 – the gift of the Spirit is a preliminary to the life of the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit leads into a life of being led by the Spirit.

Romans 8 v 15

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!”

ME expounds Romans 8v1-15 – that is how the New Testament describes how we come into life in the Holy Spirit.

“Being led” means more than just guidance – it speaks of the whole of life. Those who walk in the Spirit fulfil the law without trying. Every Christian must have the Spirit in them. The Spirit is life.

Your theology is what you come to once you have read the entire Bible and expounded it to yourself. Here is the third step of ME’s suggested method.

Get an overview of everything before diving into the details

It is an important principle to see things in a total overview first before diving into details (this applies to every aspect of life).

- ME gives the example of travelling in Hamburg – he travelled it first before going to the sights.
- He also mentioned Dr. Lloyd-Jones who was called to see a patient – he correctly knew that she was faking it. How? He could see with one glance that she was wearing make-up, no one dying does that! All the other Dr’s who looking at the details but Dr. Lloyd-Jones stood back and looked at the whole.

Get a view of the whole before you look at the parts. As you read the entire New Testament, what do you think is the work of the Spirit? ME uses this approach of many other topics (i.e. to a Catholic friend, he would ask them to read the New Testament and ask them afterwards whether they could see the Pope, Mass etc.).

Look at the general before the specific – that leads to good theology and wise living!

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, PART 5

THE GIFT OF TONGUES/THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER/ COMMANDS CONCERNING THE SPIRIT

TALK 33

Contents:

C. Life in the Spirit (Cont)

ME realised that he hadn’t said much about the gift of tongues and so he talks about it for the first 8 minutes of this talk.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

What is the relationship between the Baptism of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

Whatever your gifting is, when you receive the Baptism of the Spirit, you will experience more power. Do not make a rule out of the need to speak in tongues.

Tongues are not an indicator of salvation. It is also not the ONLY form of the Baptism of the Spirit.

- It is not biblical to think otherwise, after all Jesus was baptised in the Spirit but didn't speak in tongues.
- Adopting such a doctrine would mean that a whole bunch of people who never spoke in tongues would not have been baptised by the Spirit.
- You are in danger of falling into a Jesus + cult (i.e. you need Jesus + Tongues). You must never make anything indispensable in addition to Jesus.

The gift of tongues is from God – it is not something to be proud of. Paul in 1 Cor 14 talks it down, you must not glory in it. ME believes that a Christian should know something of non-rational prayer but must not make a big thing of it.

With that covered – back to what he was saying in Talk 32.

C. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT GET AN OVERVIEW OF EVERYTHING BEFORE DIVING INTO THE DETAILS

What do you see when you get an overview of the New Testament?

A church should have a constant touch of the supernatural – buildings shake, people have visions, there will be healings, someone was transferred from A to B once (Acts 8v40). These things do not happen all the time. The miraculous doesn't take over and rule everything but it is there all the time.

It is also important to look at church history to get an overview

Often it is the backslidden churches that want miracles and trinkets. The Reformation swept all of that aside and went back to the Bible. John Welsh was used to raise the dead and speak out against the persecution of the Scottish church. ME gives more examples of these individuals used in history. These were never central though, they gloried in the gospel first and foremost. The cross is the central message – not the supernatural, miracles, morality etc. They are there, but not central.

What do you find more specifically in the NT?

The Spirit unites people to Jesus Christ and into the body.

Romans 8 v 9

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

We live in an age of excitement. This is unique to our age. Everybody wants great excitement. Why is that? It is a reaction to the Rationalism of the previous generations. We bypass the mind and appeal

directly to the feelings (i.e. music, sex). We can also see this in the church – but the excitements do not last forever.

The supernatural is constantly touching the church, but the main content of the message is newness of life.

Romans 2 v 29

²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.

Romans 7 v 6

⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Character is put above excitement in Galatians. The fruit are the “ordinary”.

What does the Spirit do for the Christian?

1. The Spirit is the creator of fellowship

Phil 2 v 1-2

¹ 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.

2. The Spirit is the giver of knowledge

1 Cor 2 v 10

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

3. The Spirit is the giver of power in ministry – Paul came in physical weakness but the Spirit provides the power. Often when you are at your worst, the Spirit is at His best, because you were not relying on your righteousness. At those times, you have to trust in the blood of Jesus, you are not praying in your own name.

1 Cor 2 v 10

¹ And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

4. The Spirit is the giver of assurance
5. The Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit
6. The Spirit gives gifts – 1 Cor 12 shows that this can lead to wildness

The commands concerning the Spirit

1. We are not to anger the Spirit – Isaiah 63v10
2. We are not to despise the Spirit – Heb 10v29
3. We are not to grieve the Spirit – when you resist what God is doing in you. The Spirit will quieten His work in your life.
4. We are not to quench the Spirit – 1 Thes 5v19 – “If you stamp out the false, you’ll stamp out the true” – don’t be so afraid of extremism that you withdraw into deadness. Don’t be so afraid of the fringe that you quench the central work of the Spirit.
5. We are not to resist the Spirit – Acts 7v51
6. We are not to lie the Spirit – Acts 5
7. We are not to test/tempt the Spirit – Acts 5

Those are all negative but there are positive ones as well:

1. We are to walk in the Spirit – Gal 5 – this means that we must follow the promptings to Godliness, holiness, to resist sin, to fight temptation, to show love, to prayerfulness. The Christian life is not what you do NOT do, but what you do. Get on with serving God.
2. We are to sow to the Spirit – Gal 6v8 – We will reap eternal life if we sow into the realm of the Spirit. A crop will come up – your character will change.
3. We are to be on fire with the Spirit – Rom 12v11 – “be fervent” = to be on fire with the Spirit. God gives you the fire but you must keep the fire burning. That is what the Priests needed to do every day in the temple. Ask yourself – What gets the fire burning? What quenches the fire? You ask these questions so that you can keep the fire burning. ME gives the example of going to a jazz concert where he received common grace that made him preach a lot better! We need to attend to the whole man – eating, sleeping, exercise. ME mentions the example of the Angel giving Elijah sleep and a meal – he attends to Elijah physically first.
4. We are to go on being filled with the Spirit – Eph 5v18 – always giving thanks, submitting to one another, attending to the needs of others – we move as a mighty army taking care of one another.

The excitements will come, but don’t let them push out these ordinary workings of the Spirit!