

The HOLY SPIRIT and the BELIEVER

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

It is important for every believer to understand that the Christian life is a partnership. The more you appreciate and recognize the need for partnership, the more your Christian life develops. You will see greater things happening in your life as well as in your ministry.

In life we see that the success and victory behind what is important, crucial and has real value revolve around areas of partnership. For instance, marriage is a partnership. Businesses also thrive on partnership. In fact, depending on the nature of the business, going into partnership will realize its true potential and bring great success. Who then is your partner as a Christian?

"And I will pray to the father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever" (John 14:16). When Jesus prays we can expect that the Father will answer. And we have discovered that he surely has sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our partner. In fact, He is our Senior Partner. Some of you are waiting to become better persons so that the Holy Spirit can come to you. This is a lie of the devil. The Holy Spirit is a gift to help you become better. Your own righteousness cannot merit the Holy Spirit. All you have to do as a believer is to simply ask the Father for the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 assures us that, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" James points out the importance of asking. "... You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:2-3).

Getting into this kind of a partnership with the Holy Spirit will bring success in your Christian living. We see this illustrated in the lives of Elijah and Elisha. In 2 Kings 2, we read that when Elijah was taken up by the chariot of fire, the anointing that was upon Elijah's life came to rest upon Elisha's life. Earlier, Elisha had asked Elijah, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." (v.9). Elisha was doubly anointed by the Spirit of God. When the sons of the prophet who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The Spirit of Elijah rest on Elisha"(v.15). These men in the Old Testament who were called and did the work of God understood this important truth of partnership with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says, "Without Me you can do nothing." There are two reasons why we depend on the Holy Spirit. Firstly, the Holy Spirit is the source of character building. It is not how much knowledge you have that counts! What good is knowledge if you do not have the wisdom and strength to change your character for the better? Changing your character to become more like Jesus is only possible with the partnership of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit can bear fruit in our lives, such as love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit is the power for ministry and for living. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 says, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." These gifts become operational when we get in partnership with the Holy Spirit. If you have faith and believe, God will use you. The secret is to yield yourself to the Holy Spirit. The more you recognize your partnership with the Holy Spirit, the more blessed, victorious and successful you become. Whatever your occupation may be, the Holy Spirit can make you successful.

Let us learn from seven practical examples.

Skills to work

Bezalel and Aholiab are clear examples of men whom the Holy Spirit helped and they became very skillful in their occupation. Exodus 36:1-2 says, "And Bezalel and Aholiab and every gifted artisan in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the Lord has commanded."

In Battle

Deuteronomy 34:9 says, "Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the Spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses." Joshua came out the winner of each battle he faced because the Spirit of God came upon him and gave him wisdom. Whatever challenges you are facing, be it morality, temptations or corruption, you too can fight and win, if you are in partnership with God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Decision-making

1 Kings 3:28 records, "And all Israel heard of the judgement which the king had rendered; and they feared the king for they saw that the kingdom of God was in him to administer justice." What was the secret behind the wisdom of Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived? It was none other than his partnership with God through the Holy Spirit who anointed him.

In Righteousness

Without a partnership with the Holy Spirit our righteousness is like filthy rags. But when the Spirit of God enables you to be, to become and to do, then that righteousness glorifies God. David understood this well. In Psalm 51:11 he prayed, "Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." David realized that it is not possible to live a life that is pleasing to God without the Holy Spirit. That is why David pleaded with God not to take the Holy Spirit away from him.

When you are in partnership with the Holy Spirit you will be convicted when you sin. The Bible says that those who weep and mourn are blessed! Why? When men and women know how to be sorry and repent of their sins, they are blessed because there is hope for them. You cannot live your Christian life successfully without the Holy Spirit. God wants to abide in you through the Holy Spirit so that you can live for the glory of God.

In Ezekiel 36:26-27, God promises, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of you and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my judgement and do them." You are not just born again but you are given a new spirit. The Holy Spirit enables you to walk in the will of God and you do not have to succumb to temptations.

Insight & Inspiration

Insight & inspiration come through partnership with the Holy Spirit. Scriptures tells us that Moses' elders were inspired and had tremendous insight. "...When the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied..." (Numbers 11:25).

Ezekiel

Ezekiel 11:5 says, "Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said to me, 'Speak! 'Thus says the lord: Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind.'" " The Holy Spirit gave revelation and understanding to Ezekiel.

Daniel's ability to interpret visions and dreams

Daniel 4:8-9 records, "But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dreams before him, saying, 'Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and it's interpretation.' " The Holy Spirit of God was with Daniel and gave Daniel the wisdom and understanding to interpret the dreams of the King.

No wonder Jesus commanded His disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now' " (Acts 1:4-5). Paul also instructed the Ephesians Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). How much more we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we see the coming of the Lord is at hand. Let us serve the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.