

LAST GREAT DAY 2014

WHO NEEDS THE SPIRIT?

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By the way ... the answer is ... we do.

How do we win the battle, how do we overcome, how do we ensure we make it into The Kingdom? Bearing in mind that we are flesh and blood. The answer is ... we are not on our own ... God has given us special power to help us.

Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them 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 baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of power ... which we need, which the Apostles needed ... without which ... we will achieve nothing. When we were baptised, we received the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39

"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

John 7:38. AMPLIFIED BIBLE

" He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water."

If Jesus is Lord, then He is The Boss.

John 4:7-14

" A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.""

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.""

There is coming a gift of "Living Water" ... this is a picture of the Spirit which Jesus would give when He was glorified.

John 16:5-7

"But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send it to you."

Is that just a weak platitude or does it have real meaning?

John 16:7 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

"However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send it to you [to be in close fellowship with you]."

John 14:15-18

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for it dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:25-26

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

If we have The Holy Spirit that Jesus talks about ... we should be very different.

John 14:8-11

" Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can

you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." (NOW THE FATHER DWELLS IN US BY HIS SPIRIT. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE WORKS THAT JESUS DID AND GREATER WORKS).

John 14:12-14

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

Many mighty wonders, many mighty miracles could be done by us ... by the spirit that has been given to us.

Hebrews 2:1-4

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"

The problem here is drifting!! God endorsed His word with signs and wonders and miracles.

Acts 15:12

" Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles."

If you read through the Book of Acts ... there is plenty evidence of signs, wonders, miracles. It is part of the territory of being a disciple.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 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 the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, 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."

God gives His Spirit because we need these gifts. There should be multiple manifestations of these gifts in God's people. We should eagerly desire spiritual gifts ... passionately seek these gifts. Desire for ... long for ... them. Paul thinks that prophecy is, in his view, the most helpful in the main. We have to test the spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:1

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

Do we? Or do we not even think of spiritual gifts? We don't tend to focus much at all on God's spirit in our lives. God's power is generally available at all times for us.

Ephesians 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

We have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 1:15-21

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

Ephesians 1:19 GOOD NEWS BIBLE

" and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. This power working in us is the same as the mighty strength"

Ephesians 3:14-21

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Romans 8:7-11

" Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit which dwells in you."

Ephesians 5:18-21

" And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God."

Ephesians 5:18 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

" And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit."

2 Timothy 1:6-7

" Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

We have to continually stir up the Holy Spirit in us ... "rekindle, fan the flame"(Amplified Bible)

Galatians 5:16

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Galatians 5:25

" If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

We can "walk in the flesh" or "walk in the spirit". Are we going to do everything as though it depends on us ... our intellect, etc? Where are our minds when we are assessing situations ... do we purely "lean on the flesh"? We have to have our minds set on the spirit. Where do we choose to focus our minds? We can look at God's Word.

Colossians 3:1-2

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (THAT'S OUR CHOICE!!!)

Remember: Quitters never win. Winners never quit!!

Colossians 3:2 NET

" Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth,"

Acts 1:4-8

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them 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 baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.""

The Churches of God have had more knowledge of the "Truth" than any other church ... but have never really known God. We can do better than that.

We have a lot of truth ... but we need to walk more in the spirit. The Holy Spirit brings power. We have received The Holy Spirit of Power. With that

power, we can be those witnesses that Jesus speaks about in the above verses.