

The Holy Spirit does it all, 1 of 4

Hi all,

A widow of less than a year said to me: "I was believing so hard for my husband to be healed, but he wasn't, and I don't understand why. I believed, and I declared the Word."

I didn't have the heart to tell her she completely misunderstood what faith is.

I was where she was, once upon a time.

Most of you know our oldest son Chris. He was born by emergency C-section with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck, resulting in brain damage. As I write this Chris is 44 years old, but mentally about 4 years old.

He was at home the first 24 years of his life, but in a group home the last 20+. When not traveling I pick him up on Friday morning and return him Saturday afternoon. Friday is errand day with dad. Chris gets to pick where he wants to have lunch, and we are known by many store clerks and local restaurants. All greet Chris like a long lost friend when we roll through the stores or come for lunch.

Friday night Barb cooks a favorite meal for him, and Saturday morning he can sleep in. We nearly always do a big breakfast. At the group home they tell them when to get up and when to go to bed - all parts of life are on a schedule - medicines, meals, day program activities. When he is home he can relax and set the pace.

He loves the Lord and talks of going to heaven...

...where he won't need a wheelchair, and is quite content to wait until then. When we see an ambulance or firetruck race by, he grabs my hand saying: "We better pray." (So we do) He has never met a stranger, nor a dog he didn't like.

The Lord promised him something when he was about 21. He came crawling down the hall, pulling himself along the floor like an army man staying low, pulling himself by his elbows.

"Dad! Know what Jesus told me? He said He's going to walk through the mountains with me, yep, that's what He said, yahoo! He's going to walk through the mountains with me. That's what Jesus said to me."

Having that word from the Lord directly to him, Chris is not looking for healing. Barb and I are, but we have no word from the Lord about Chris being healed this side of heaven. Does our 'faith' count for anything? Is what we have faith? Or is it hope for his healing?

People, strangers, well meaning all - well, most of them - on the Internet and by email and to our faces, have offered links to everything from cures or treatments for brain damage, to finding fault with Barb and I for not believing, not doing more to see him healed.

When we fell away from the Word of Faith (WOF)

There was a point in our young lives that people from WOF concluded Chris must have a demon. To our great shame we let them try to cast a demon out of him - there was no demon, and it scared Chris so we stopped it. A brain injury is not a demon. Injury is not demonic. Others suggested that we have a secret sin. Some thought we didn't have enough faith for healing.

We were ostracized from the very ones we fellowshiped with each Sunday morning. We felt all alone. Word of Faith with this this son who wasn't healed - what was wrong with the Fenn's people wondered? Had we failed God or failed Chris? We questioned all we believed about faith.

In those early days we consulted an attorney to sue the hospital and doctor. They told us directly, that there was such negligence 'it would be a 7 figure settlement'. (In the millions of dollars) You see, Chris was born December 23. The doctor was home waiting for his son to arrive for Christmas, so when he was told Chris was in fetal distress at 2pm (14.00), he still didn't arrive at the hospital until 7:25pm (19.25).

He immediately determined to do an emergency C-section

But then the hospital could not find the pediatrician on call which was required to be present for an emergency C-section. Chris therefore wasn't born until 8:50pm (20.50). Yes, millions of dollars worth of negligence by all involved.

But what we would have to go through to bring a lawsuit was too much emotionally for Barb, and we declined after great struggles emotionally and spiritually, choosing to trust the Father - for better or worse, right or wrong, that just how it was back then when Chris was young.

The turmoil of reliving all that pain was just too much for us, and we just couldn't do it. We walked away, forgave, and gave up the idea of justice and vengeance and anger and all those emotions, to trust the Father and Lord for healing and provision for Chris' future needs.

It was in those days...

...of working through us not fitting in to Word of Faith, to deciding not to sue but to trust and believe, that the Lord first visited me. To this day I wonder if our turmoil and wrestling with that had anything to do with His great grace in what has become regular visitations.

The first was April of 1986. Then came the Lord's first teaching visitation, October 1, 1986. And so began several years of visitations as we left vengeance and man's provision aside, in the midst of our crisis with WOF, that He came so very often to our almost nightly times of worship. He has been visiting me ever since, several times a year.

Many of the earliest visitations I had with the Lord reshaped my understanding of Him, of scripture, of faith, and are recorded in the book Pursuing the Seasons of God. The sequel: Knowing the Ways of God is about those times too, but that is more about my 'tour' of heaven. (Email me at cwowi@aol.com and I'll send you the PDF)

We started to look into scripture to find what faith really is, and where it comes from. It was in that time I fasted water-only for 15 days, telling the Father I wouldn't eat until Chris was healed. But I knew enough that when I shifted attention to my spirit, there was no revelation, no peace about Him moving to heal Chris. I learned fasting doesn't move God, but it sure helped my sensitivity to His realm. There was no life in my spirit for what I was doing, no Holy Spirit witness, so I ended it.

So I know what I'm talking about.

All of that transparency, all me sharing the great pain we have gone through, is to let the reader know this is not theory to me. Barb and I have lived through the process of giving up nearly all we ever believed about the Lord. We've had our motives purified - not to walk with Him for what He might do or could do for us or our son, but to just love the Father and Lord with all our hearts in purity, to love others transparently and purely.

We know what grace is. We know what hope is. We know what faith is. We want nothing more of the Father than to know Him. That is what was worked in us in those early days. They brought us back to our teen years when we were all about loving the Father, loving the Lord, with no ulterior motives, no thought of what He might do for us.

When Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the power of Satan, He said He did so by the Holy Spirit. That's where we will pick it up next week. For it is not just the Word by Himself or by itself, it is by the Holy Spirit, and His presence brings the kingdom to any situation.

Until then, blessings,
John Fenn

<http://www.cwowi.org> and email me at cwowi@aol.com

The Holy Spirit does it all, 2of4

Hi all,

Last week I shared from my heart about our lives dealing with what we believed of the Lord in Word of Faith (WOF) versus the reality of our handicapped son.

I shared how I fasted for 15 days water only, but in my spirit there was no life there, no witness in my spirit about doing so. I ended the fast once I made that honest assessment there was no life in what I was doing.

I realized the Word and Spirit are always in agreement. No matter what the verse says, it is the Spirit that gives life. (John 6:63) If the Holy Spirit isn't involved when I speak a verse, nothing will happen.

So this is why the title of this 4-part teaching is 'The Holy Spirit does it all.'

When Jesus was casting out a demon in Matthew 12:22-32, the religious leaders said He did it by the power of the devil.

Jesus responded that wasn't even logical, for if demons cast out demons, Satan's kingdom will fall. Then He said: "But if I cast them out by the Spirit of God, the kingdom of God has come to you."

Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) He, the Son of God, cast demons out by the Holy Spirit. Let that sink in. We are Him in this earth. His body. What He did then He does now, through us.

IF we think God wants to do something just because we know a verse that applies, BUT the Holy Spirit is not involved, then nothing will happen.

For example

A pastor I knew received the diagnosis of thyroid cancer in about 1989, but was Word of Faith (WOF) and chose to call it an infection. He refused to have it treated. Thyroid cancer is slow growing and only fatal if left untreated for years.

I knew nothing of his diagnosis in 1999 when the Lord told me he has cancer, and that he needs to deal with it or it will kill him. I gave that word and was soundly rebuked, told I was thinking of it wrong, that it was just an infection. I left certain what the Lord had told me, but shocked I was rejected.

About 8 years later he realized he was losing the battle, and began seeking treatment. In the last months of his life he let his congregation know he had cancer. The whole church began praying, some fasting, for his healing. When he died weeks later, many were in shock, questioning all they had believed - they spoke the Word, they proclaimed the Word, but he died.

It wasn't until after his death that his wife shared he had been diagnosed those many years earlier. You see, he did it to himself by not doing what was within his authority to do. There was no miracle healing for him as a result. The sin of presumption is thinking that something is God's responsibility, when in fact it is our responsibility. You can speak the Word, command, declare all you want, but if you are in presumption, the Holy Spirit isn't in all your efforts - there will be no life to them.

Thousands of people were 'speaking the Word over him', but the Spirit was not present. Jesus the Word, and the Spirit, were not in agreement to heal him because he ignored common sense and refused to do what was within his power to do.

Deaf girl, Fedra

I was in Saltillo, Mexico for about a week of meetings, helping a missionary our church supported. Two women came to the ministry house to ask if I would come and 'pray over' a 7 year old girl who was born deaf, and had never spoken. I excused myself while the missionary and his wife and the women continued to visit.

Back in my room, I told the Father I wasn't going to go unless He would heal or deliver her, whatever was needed. For it did no good to proclaim the Word if the Spirit wasn't going to do the deliverance from a deaf and dumb spirit, or heal her - whichever was needed, I didn't know. Immediately He said: "Go, for I will heal her."

I came back to them and told them I would go. In the morning the 11 Americans in our group, plus the missionary and the two women, drove to the little village where the girl lived, and then into her home. Her parents and family spoke no English, the 11 of us spoke very little Spanish.

They set the very scared little girl in a chair facing all of us Americans, with her family lined up behind her. We were roughly a dozen people on each side standing, facing one another in an uncomfortable silence, while this little girl sat in the chair, staring with saucer sized eyes at what was going on.

Finally, the missionary explained to the family what was going to happen as I explained what I was going to do, and the parents made gestures and stood next to their daughter giving her assuring pats on her shoulders.

I stepped forward, put my fingertips in her ears saying, "I command the deaf and dumb spirit to leave, and little girl, I say you, be healed in the name of Jesus." (I didn't know if a spirit was involved, I had no leading, no discernment, no idea at all - I knew the Father said He would heal her, but at that point in 1988, I wanted to cover every possibility, so 'when in doubt, cast it out'. But I think it was a healing.

I had the scripture of course 'by His stripes we were healed'. And I had scripture that said we have authority to use the name of Jesus to lay hands on the sick. But it was the Father - by the Spirit - who said "Go, for I will heal her." I had the Word AND the Spirit in agreement, so she was healed.

At first she started looking around the room with a startled look in her eyes, then one with us, a nurse, noticed her eyes were following whoever was talking....suddenly she realized what had happened and she jumped up and started jumping and making noises, not speech, but noises of extreme joy for the first time in her life...

She literally jumped into my arms and pointed to outside....we went and stood just outside her door, and a bird was in the tree overhead, chirping. She smiled this huge smile and look straight up and pointed to the bird. Soon more than a dozen children came running and she scrambled to have me set her down.

In the excited circle of children they began calling out her name: "Fedra" and she would turn and point to which child said that. After a few seconds of this game, she turned and saw one of the mini-vans we had come in, and pushed her way through the kids, running to the van. She pounded on the door and someone opened it for her. She scrambled into the driver's seat and started pounding on the steering wheel, finally hitting the horn, which caused her to jump back in astonishment. It occurred to us she had seen people drive into the village pounding their horns, but she had never until that moment understood why they did that -

The Word and Spirit MUST be in agreement.

Today, many people have been taught it is the Word that is the power. Just declare, just speak over a person or situation; they've been taught there is power in that. What Jesus made clear, is that He the Word, works via the Holy Spirit.

We will pick it up there next week, until then, blessings,

John Fenn

<http://www.cwowi.org> and email me at cwowi@aol.com

The Holy Spirit does it all 3of4

Hi all,

Last week I shared 2 examples of how the Word and Spirit must be in agreement, for it is the Spirit that actually does the work. Let's pick it up there.

Hebrews 1:1-3 is my favorite passage in the whole Bible.

"God (Father) in times past spoke in many ways and many parts to the fathers through prophets. But in these last days He has spoken to us in His Son, whom He (Father) appointed heir of all things, and by whom also, He (Father) made the ages."

"Who (the Son) is the brightness of His (Father's) glory, the impressed image of His (Father's) being (nature, character), and **Who upholds all things by the Word of His (Father's) power.** When He had by Himself purged our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty (Father) on high."

When learning this, the Lord pointed out to me: "Notice, I uphold all things by the word of the Father's power. I AM; the Word of the Father's power. He has the power, I AM the Word of that power."

A real-life example might be a father who owns a business, and he brings his son up to be 2nd in charge of the business. But the father still runs it. The father then sends his son to a convention, authorizing him to conduct business in the Father's name.

The son is doing the business, but he is functioning in the father's power. The son then, is the word of the father's power, the father's will. He is the image of the father's character, and upholds his father's will by his word - but it is the father's power that runs the company.

This exchange changed everything for me.

In a moment of time I went from thinking the power was in the Word, (but confused as to why it didn't always work), to understanding it is the Word of the Father's power. That unless the Father (Spirit) and Son (Word) are working together to do the Father's will, nothing will happen no matter how many times I command in the name of Jesus.

It gave me great relief concerning the 'name it claim it' stream of the faith, that morphed into the general charismatic practice of 'speaking life/healing/blessing over' and 'declare and decree' stream of the faith.

As that sunk in for a few moments, my mind's gears spinning full speed as what He said resonated in my spirit but it took a minute for my head to sort it out, the Lord then referred me to Matthew 6:7 to underscore His point, and I was surprised by His directness. That verse says:

"And when you pray **don't use vain repetitions like the pagans (unbelievers) do. They think they will be heard by their much speaking.**" I felt within myself ever so briefly, like a kid caught with his hand in the cookie jar, because I had been guilty of that very thing - the 'positive confession', the weekly congregational recitation of a page of positive confessions and declarations, and so on. "Sorry Lord" "It's okay."

The Greek word translated 'vain repetitions' is 'battalogesete', and means "speaking without thinking, mechanically repeating words (Vine's), using empty words." We have an example in I Kings 18:26 when Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. "Then they called out the name of Baal from morning until noon..." in a repetitive, formula-based effort to try to get Baal to move on their behalf.

He said many of His people have fallen into this, on the one hand He seemed saddened and disappointed so many had done so, while at the same time: "But I do what I can for them, for often their hearts are right, they are just ignorant of the ways of the Father. You must teach them His ways."

That changed my life as I said, like a weight off my shoulders, lifting the feeling I had betrayed and dishonored all I thought I knew about faith. I realized what He was teaching me resonated, and was what I always knew, somehow, down in my spirit. My head was just trained wrong.

I often now say, "Revelation is something you already (or always) knew, but never realized."

That's when something resonates in your spirit, you feel that excitement of the witness of the Spirit with your spirit, even if your head is spinning as it rearranges previous understandings.

The Word of God, the ink on the page I'm talking about, has no power by itself. There are many ministers, pastors, and reverends in hell because they knew the page but not the Person who IS the Word. It is from the Person who is the Word that the ink on the page is derived.

Noah received a revelation about the flood - that was grace.

Faith was his response. He built a boat. Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua - all listed in Hebrews 11 'the hall of faith', and every one of them first received a revelation from the Father - via the Holy Spirit - and faith was their response. Abraham and Sarah made a baby, Moses returned to Egypt, Joshua circled the city - each one having first received the grace, the revelation, to do so. Faith was their response to the revelation.

Paul and Barnabas

In Acts 13: 46-47 Paul and Barnabas face great opposition by unbelieving Jews, while many Gentiles listening to them (non-Jews) believed. Paul told them they were stopping efforts to speak to the Jews, "For this is what the Lord commanded us: "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Paul quoted Isaiah 49:6 which has multiple meanings for Isaiah, Israel and the Messiah. Yet Paul said that verse was used by the Lord to direct their ministry to the Gentiles. Paul didn't just flip through Isaiah and wherever his eyes landed decide to 'stand on' that verse. NO! He said the Lord spoke to them that it was for them too. The Spirit revealed it to them, and then they moved on that revelation.

Faith feels like peace.

Why is that? Because faith is a response to a revelation (grace) from heaven. There is peace in a revelation from heaven, and faith is born of that, so faith feels like peace.

Think back in your walk with the Lord. Have you had a revelation about something? That you knew before you were hired you had that job? That you had a peace about renting this place to live, or about going to that school? When it has 'worked' for you, you had that peace. When it didn't work, is when you tried to force 'faith' by speaking and declaring and forcing things to work.

James 3:17-18 is true, the wisdom of the Lord is pure and peaceful. That's what faith feels like, because it is based on a revelation (grace) from the Father and Lord.

Next week, living by personal revelation from the Holy Spirit. Until then, blessings,
John Fenn
cwowi.org
Email me at cwowi@aol.com

The Holy Spirit does it all, 4 of 4 – 6juli2024

Hi all,

How do we live our lives flowing from revelation in our spirit outward into our busy lives?

First, Jesus' example was to always do what we know to do in the natural.

When He cleansed the lepers He told them to go and show themselves to the priest, as the Mosaic law prescribed. Before He turned water into wine He had them locate then fill the water pots. Before He fed the thousands He had them organized by sitting them down in groups of 50s and 100s.
Luke 17:14, John 2, Mark 6:40

Presumption is thinking God is going to do something when it is our responsibility. If it is within our power to use those resources, we are usually expected to do so. Often doing that involves pain, money, and we would much rather have God just wave His hand and heal us, give us money, forgive us without us having to go to the other person to apologize, and so on. But we do the right things in the natural first.

Once we do what we know to do, THEN He often speaks or leads us from there. Sometimes He will tell us not to do something in the natural, but more often than not, He expects us to do what is within our ability to do.

But how does that work? Let me start that answer by asking this:

Who is the only one of the godhead active in ministry on the earth right now?

Answer: The Holy Spirit. He alone is the 1 of the godhead active on the earth today.

If Jesus visits anyone, He opens their eyes to His realm by the Spirit. Jesus is 'in the Spirit' and won't physically be seen until His return to set up His kingdom. Until then He remains 'in the Spirit'.

The Father is in heaven, seated on His throne as we can see in the whole of The Revelation 4. Jesus ascended to heaven to oversee His body, as its Head. How does He administrate His body from heaven? The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is in both heaven and earth at the same time.

"I have many more things to say to you but you cannot grasp them now. However, when He the *Spirit of Truth* comes, He will guide you into all truth because He won't speak of Himself, but whatever He hears, that is what He will say and He will show you things to come." John 16:12-13

Jesus said He had many more things to say, but He had to wait until after His ascension to say them. This is why Jesus specifically called the Holy Spirit 'the Spirit of truth'. Jesus wanted His disciples to know whatever Jesus said, the Holy Spirit would exactly communicate it to them, truthfully, without error, without alteration, but exactly true as He spoke it from heaven. The Spirit of Truth.

Acts 2:33: "Therefore being exalted at the right hand of (Father) God, and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has given Him to us, which is what you see and hear." (Pentecost)

"Eye has not seen nor has earth heard, nor has it entered into the imagination of man what God (Father) has prepared for those who love Him. But, God (Father) has revealed these things to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God (Father)...We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit of God so that we may know the things which He has freely given to us..." I Corinthians 2:9-12

The Holy Spirit is in heaven listening for Jesus to speak, searching the deep things of the Father's heart for what He has prepared for us. He does this while also within us, communicating what He has heard and learned of the things Jesus wants to say and the Father has prepared. He is ever-present in heaven and earth at the same time. There is no time-lag between what He hears and what He communicates to our spirit. We get it 'live as it happens', so to speak.

The Witness

Once we realize this, it becomes easier for us to shift our focus to what is in our spirit. We sense His presence in our spirit. We sense His peace. We know He is the faithful and true witness in heaven to what Jesus says and the Father has prepared, and communicates those things exactly to our spirit.

In Acts 5:32, speaking of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension: "We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit, who God (Father) gives to those who obey Him." (Believe in Jesus)

When the Father was teaching me about His Spirit, He emphasized what I just wrote above. My question to Him was: "Why was the Holy Spirit 'hovering' over the earth in Genesis 1:2?" He immediately responded: "As a witness to creation." I asked; "Why?" and He replied: "Because Moses needed an eye-witness account of creation so he could write it down."

An eye-witness to creation so Moses could write it down. An eye-witness account of Jesus' life and passion. How did you know what your friend was telling you about Jesus was true before you were born again? Or that preacher, or that parent, or as you read scripture? How did you know it was true about Jesus? The Father by His Spirit was showing you, testifying to you, bearing witness to you, that it was true and you needed to do something about the Jesus question. Jesus said in John 6:45: "All who hear from the Father and learn of Him, come to me."

It was your Father loving on you by His Spirit to your spirit, concerning Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is a witness of the truth. That is why Paul wrote in Romans 8: 16 that the Holy Spirit 'testifies' or 'bears witness' to our spirit that we are the children of God. That is truth. He is in heaven to know from Jesus and the Father you are born again, citizen of heaven, child of the Father. He testifies that truth to one's spirit man.

The way to live that out is to force your emotions and thoughts captive to obedience to the truth the Holy Spirit testifies to your spirit.

That's how we live from our spirit in all things. When we fear, we switch to what the Holy Spirit in us is testifying. When we go into a meeting thinking we will pour out the wrath of God on a person, but suddenly in our spirit we sense grace and love for them, we submit our emotions and thoughts to that which is in our spirit.

Our job is to follow that heavenly direction which was so perfectly put in our spirit. That's why there are no prayers to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. His function is to listen for what Jesus and the Father are saying and revealing what is prepared for us. He will not speak of Himself.

"For we are God's poems, created in Christ Jesus for good things which the Father prepared beforehand for us to walk out." Ephesians 2:10 (Greek)

How do we discover what the Father has prepared for us to walk out? By walking with the Father, talking with the Father, and letting His Spirit who knows the deep things of His heart, reveal to our heart what the Father has prepared.

Just talk with your Father conversationally, then stop, shift your attention to your spirit. Listen, sense, do you sense that presence, that peace? Go with that. Live from that. Develop that sensitivity to His presence in your spirit by shifting your attention many times during your day.

What I do, is first thing after waking up I find something to be thankful for. Sometimes it is just that I woke up, sometimes it is when I see the sunrise, or a pretty cloud, or an animal out the window - Thank you Father for letting me see that. Thank you Father for that timing. Thank you Father....

It is the discipline of the thoughts and emotions bringing them subject to what you sense in your spirit, that will enable you to live from your spirit, out your soul, to make your body obediently trained. You can start your day doing that by being thankful, then pause, shift attention to your spirit, and sense Him. Sense His presence, His peace - He is there. Develop that sensitivity. It isn't a formula, it is a relationship.

This is the end of this series, but I will have some additional thoughts and more about what the Father told me when He was teaching me about Himself and His Spirit who is Holy. Until then, blessings,

John Fenn

<http://www.cwowi.org>

email me at cwowi@aol.com

Final thoughts, the Holy Spirit

Hi all,

Some final thoughts on the Holy Spirit.

On the day of Pentecost God moved out of the temple and into people.

Can you imagine the adjustment these Jewish people had to make in their understanding to the idea the great I AM now lived in them?

Their whole lives they had been (rightly) taught about God's presence coming down on the tabernacle of Moses. How the great I AM had spoken to Moses face to face as a man talks to his friend. (Exodus 33:11)

They had been taught the sacrifices by which they might approach Him, and how the Holy Spirit was upon the prophet, priest, and king, but not on the common man.

John's gospel reveals their understanding of Christ who was preexistent with the Father, emptying Himself of all rights and privileges and power as God's Son, leaving heaven, to become the baby and the man, Jesus.

God's Word, the Word of the Father's power, that word that spoke to Adam, Abraham, Moses and all the prophets, became a human being and lived among them. (John 1:14)

Now they understood

When Jesus ascended to heaven He needed to administer His will. The Father's Spirit is the means by which He does that. Now ascended, He is no longer confined to one place and time as He was when

He lived in the flesh in the gospels. He can be instantly anywhere, in His glorified body. By the Father's Spirit Jesus knows all and oversees His body world-wide.

The Holy Spirit is both in heaven and in us at the same time. When the Lord deals with us on something in our heart, our emotions, He does so from within us, but equally so in heaven.

When we receive peace in our spirit about something in our life, it is because in heaven the Holy Spirit has learned or heard peace from the Father or Lord about our situation. If you have peace in your spirit, it is because there is peace in heaven about it too. Same time, no delay, instant communication. Peace in your spirit here is because the Lord and Father say 'peace' about it.

Temple thinking

Acts 2:46 tells us they were 'daily in the temple and from house to house'. What an adjustment to their lives! They went to temple as they had all their lives, but God's presence was no longer there.

What a conflict in their minds existed! Now they went to temple to learn from the apostles about Christ in them, being right there on temple grounds realizing the I AM that once lived behind the veil between the cherubs on the Ark of the Covenant, now lives in them! How to fathom such love!

But those happy days with one foot in the temple and one foot in homes was short-lived

Acts 8:1 tells us Saul of Tarsus and others so persecuted these new believers that: "They were all scattered abroad in the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

The time between Pentecost in Acts 2, and every believer moving out of Jerusalem was about a year, no more than about 18 months. Consider, in Acts 2 we have Pentecost, in 3 & 4 Peter and John are brought before the authorities. In 5 Ananias & Sapphira die. In 6 servants are appointed to handle the food distribution to the widows. The whole of chapter 7 is Steven's defense and death.

All within about a year these things happened. With their lives in danger, they all left the city. I've seen estimates of 10,000 people. Suddenly, they were gone, no more going to temple daily. Now meeting in homes to learn about Christ in them, the great I AM who by the Father's Spirit, lives in them.

After Saul of Tarsus got saved and became the apostle Paul,

People started filtering back into the city, but we never again see statements in Acts about them being 'daily in the temple'. They didn't need the temple any longer. The reality of Christ in them had taken full hold. They had the revelation, enhanced by the revelations Paul wrote about - Christ in you, having the mind of Christ for any situation, being righteous in Him, how the Spirit searches the Father for what He has prepared for us, and more.

I believe the Lord allowed that year between Pentecost and them moving, which meant no more temple access at all, so they could adjust to New Testament realities.

Today we see the same thing.

Christians have been raised all their lives that church is 'God's house', and His presence is stronger there, stronger on leaders, and to be blessed they need to go to the building to meet God.

But then they have their own 'Pentecost revelation'. God doesn't live in a building. Christ is in them, in their friends, in their neighbors, in their co-workers and family, in all who believe. Why go to the temple? What relevance does it serve to a Christian whose priorities are making sure their brother and sister are fed, clothed, visited and cared for?

And here is the vast difference between Christ in us thinking and temple thinking: The temple is 'leader at the top' centered. All power goes to the person at the top. In 'Christ in you' thinking, leadership empowers each person to live by their own faith.

As many of you know, our web posts one of our key pillars:

"Not that we would have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy. For by your own faith you stand." II Corinthians 1:24

The temple system doesn't focus on the Holy Spirit within each person. It focuses on the Holy Spirit moving the person or people at the top. In home meetings it is about what Christ in each person is doing, no matter their age, no matter their socio-economic status, no matter their past.

Meetings are about empowering each person to live for Christ,

It is about continuing the discipleship process in their lives. Meeting are about seeing the Holy Spirit, God's presence, in our midst. When Paul wrote the Galatians he asked:

"When God does miracles in your midst, does He do it by the Spirit or the hearing of the (Mosaic) law?"

When writing his first letter to the Corinthians he states in 14:26:

"How is it brothers and sisters, when you come together every one of you has a Psalm (worship), another a revelation (something God showed them personally), another a teaching (something God's taught them), or tongues and interpretation. Let all things be done to build up each other."

The question begs: "Does your church service look like what Paul described?" Are miracles common? Are the gifts of the Spirit common? Is each person allowed to share what Christ in them is doing - worship song, revelation, teaching, move in the gifts?

I'm not talking people getting out of wheelchairs at every service, but rather answered prayer, seen and heard by a group of people who prayed for you to see that answer, that miracle in your life. Are you close enough to people to have that closeness, to see what God is doing, how He is answering life?

Why not?

New subject next week, until then, blessings,

John Fenn

<http://www.cwowi.org>

email me at cwowi@aol.com