

2. Understanding the Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

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Sub-title: The Holy Spirit - our personal Helper (Pt. 2)

- Last Sunday we began a new series of messages about:
 - The Person and the work of the Holy Spirit
- As believers in Christ, we should get to know, not only Jesus as our personal Lord & Saviour, but also the Holy Spirit as our personal Helper
- Every effort on our part in developing a strong relationship with the Holy Spirit will lead to personal gain
- Conversely, any neglect on our part in developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit will be our personal loss
- Living in these last days has become more and more challenging
- The need for the Holy Spirit and His help in our lives is bigger than ever

Main points of previous message:

- Jesus announced the coming of the Holy Spirit
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit – true Teacher of the Church
- The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus Christ
- After Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit descended
- Holy Spirit convicts spiritually lost people of sin, righteousness & judgment
- The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth & shows us things to come
- Do not leave Jerusalem until you have received the Holy Spirit

1. Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses & deficiencies

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) *Likewise **the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.** For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

- Rom. chpt. 8 lists 12 things where the Holy Spirit works in our lives
- Vs. 26 says: ... the Spirit helps in our weaknesses ...
- Helps - to help by joining in an activity or effort
- Dake: [Weaknesses] Our physical, mental, or moral weakness or flaws
- Paul lists the weakness of not knowing how to pray as we ought

- Actually, the Holy Spirit wants to help us, not only in our prayer life, but in all areas of our lives
- Weakness Inability lack of ability
- Incapacity lack of capacity
- Inefficiency low or no efficiency
- Ignorance lack of knowledge
- Inadequacy lack of confidence and sufficiency
- Wherever we have a weakness or an inability in our lives, the Holy Spirit wants to be our strength and our ability

2. Apostle Paul boasted in his weaknesses to access God's strength

- Paul experienced some struggles in his life & ministry through demonic interferences

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT) *Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. **My power works best in weakness.**" So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.*

- God spoke to Paul about His power working best in the life of a person who is aware of their weaknesses and disabilities
- In response, Paul said that he was glad to boast about his weaknesses, so that the power of Christ could work through him
- An overconfidence in our human abilities hinders the flow of God's power in our lives
- The anointing of the Holy Spirit rests most strongly on those who are acutely aware of their own human deficiencies

3. God's strength is available to help us overcome human weaknesses

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) *I can do all things through **Christ who strengthens me.***

- This is a "faith confession" of Paul, speaking of God's strength in His life
- In the same context, he mentioned various challenges in his life, which might have caused others to give up
- But he affirmed that he had could do all things through Christ who strengthened him

2 Corinthians 3:4–6 (NKJV) *And we have such trust through Christ toward God. 5 **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6** who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

Vs. 5 (GNB) *There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work.*

- NASB ... our adequacy is from God
- NIV ... our competence is from God
- NLT ... our qualification comes from God
- GNB ... the capacity we have comes from God

4. Holy Spirit helps us by strengthening us in our “inner man”

- One of Paul’s prayers for the saints was strength from the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:14–19 (NKJV) *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 **that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

- Strengthened with might (Gr. *dunamis*) by God’s Spirit in your inner man
- This is a very valid prayer to pray for others (intercession)
- It is also a very valid prayer to pray for ourselves
 - Holy Spirit, please strengthen me ...

5. Not by might, nor by (human) power, but by my Spirit says the Lord

- Zerubbabel was one of the leaders who returned from the Babylonian captivity to lead the rebuilding of the temple
- The work was very difficult, slow and there was much opposition
- God gave prophet Zechariah a word for Zerubbabel the governor

Zechariah 4:6 (NASB95) *Then he said to me, “**This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.**”*

- God told him that the temple wasn’t going to be rebuilt by Zerubbabel’s might or by human power, but by the workings of God’s Spirit

Zechariah 4:6 (NCV) *Then he told me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘You will **not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by My Spirit,**’ says the Lord All-Powerful.*

- This word applies to every Christian who wishes to achieve things for God
- We do not succeed by our own strength or by our own power, but by the Holy Spirit within us

6. We receive power when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:5 (NKJV) *For John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”*

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) *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.*

- Power – Gr. dunamis – supernatural power, strength