

The Victorious Life of the Spirit:

Introduction:

Over the last few weeks we have looked at our relationship with the Spirit of God. The reality of the Holy Spirit can be seen in the entire Bible, beginning in Genesis and continuing through to the book of Revelation. Many Old Testament writers include the Spirit of God in their books especially the prophet Isaiah. There are only three books in the New Testament that do not include any reference to the Holy Spirit, Philemon, 2 and 3 John. It is true that Jesus Christ is the preeminent person with regards to the will of God and the plan of redemption. It is also true that the Holy Spirit has come to focus our attention on Christ our Saviour. **John 15:26 - "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me."** And **John 16:14 - "He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."** This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is less than Jesus or the Father; it simply means that the Spirit is personally fulfilling the counsel of God's will.

When Jesus said **"it is finished"** on the cross, he was referring to his life and destiny as the Messiah. He had completed the task for which he was sent. He surrendered his life completely to God, embracing death as the Lamb of God for the forgiveness of sins. However, his resurrection was not his doing but a work of the Spirit of God. As believers when we hear **"it is finished"** we must understand that is referring to Jesus as the Messiah.

On the other hand, the Holy Spirit is declaring in the Book of Acts, *"it is just beginning"* and this can be seen in Acts 2 and following. The person of the Holy Spirit fills the lives of believers with power from on high and sends them out into the known world with the message that Jesus is alive.

The importance of the Spirit of God resting or coming upon the believers in Acts 2 is wonderfully significant. Just as the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jesus at his baptism, the Spirit was now coming upon the church. The Holy Spirit provided the joy, warmth and vitality that characterized establishing of the church in the first few centuries. The Spirit was poured out upon men and women, young and old, and in their daily lives; the believers were dedicated to their worship of the Lord Jesus and their fellowship together. The Holy Spirit provided great victory to the believers as they joined in unity and prayer to promote the work of the Gospel. Holy fire spread through the Christian community as a result of the Holy Spirit. Thousands were saved and ushered into the Kingdom of God, each new believer embarking on the road of discipleship; knowing God and making God known.

The resting of the Spirit upon both Jesus and his bride is bold and beautiful. The empowering of the Spirit enables us to walk in wisdom and understanding, counsel and power, knowledge and the fear of the Lord as seen in **Isaiah 11:2 - The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD...** Last week we looked at the attributes of Holy Spirit as related to wisdom and understanding, counsel and power. Now let's look at the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Spirit of Knowledge:

Without a great relationship with the Spirit of God, knowledge and all other characteristics of the Spirit will be lacking. To some degree wisdom and understanding take shape in the forming of knowledge as seen in the following Scripture: **Exodus 31:1-5 - Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, ⁴ to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, ⁵ in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship (NKJV).** This is an Old Testament Holy Spirit encounter resulting in great creativity and skill.

The New Testament confirms this spiritual connection: **Col 1:9 – “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** The Lord desires you and me to be filled with knowledge, wisdom and understanding – all for the sake of his Kingdom.

The Spirit of Knowledge is closely related to the gifts of the Spirit, especially that of wisdom; **1 Cor 12:8 - for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit (NKJV).** Knowledge when integrated with wisdom allows for a right application of truth. We know Paul is talking about one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit right here. None-the-less, the Spirit of knowledge is something we are to engage on a daily basis. We all need to Spirit of knowledge, a divine knowing of truth, to help us in raising our children, making career decisions or simply learning how to...

By searching the Scriptures we can discern the importance of knowledge to the believer.

- **Prov 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.** Knowledge has its origins – God Almighty. We must remember to choose the Tree of Life and not the Tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- Because knowledge is something we are filled with from God, it is a divine gift; **“knowledge is pleasant to our souls...” (Prov 2:10)**
- **Prov 24:5-6 - A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; ⁶ for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.** In other words, knowledge is power; the more you know the stronger you are...
- **Hosea 4:6 – My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you...”**

Spiritual knowledge is primarily seen in the person of Jesus Christ and in the knowing of Truth. The writers of the New Testament were constantly confronting the philosophies of the day with the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, full of grace and truth. The same is true today...

- **John 17:3 - Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**
- **2 Tim 2:4 - who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.**

The Fear of the Lord:

The Scripture states that **“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov 1:7)**. Once again we see Isaiah joining together two characteristics of the Holy Spirit; knowledge and the fear of the Lord. No single English word conveys every aspect of the word *fear* in this phrase. The meaning includes worshipful submission, reverential awe, and obedient respect to the covenant-keeping God of Israel.

When people cast off the fear of God society becomes less and less moral. The Absolutes of God’s Kingdom become wishy washy relative ideas that lead society astray. The unfortunate reality is this – people have exchanged the truth and glory of God for lies. In essence secular society has forsaken truth and knowledge as they have forsaken the respect that is due to God. This affects all aspects of life and living providing a breeding ground for the seven deadly sins that the church fathers of the Middle Ages named; laziness, lust, anger, pride, envy, gluttony and greed.

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord is all throughout Scripture.

Prov 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,³ and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Prov 8:13 tells us – “to fear the Lord is to have evil.”

The Book of Acts tells us the fear of God spread as the Spirit of God was released upon God’s people. The disciples became stronger and they grew in numbers because they grew in the Spirit of the Fear of God.

It is interesting to note in Isa 11 that we are told that Jesus would **“delight himself in the fear of the Lord.”** The word delight has several unique translations; firstly, it means to be of quick understanding. In other words, Jesus was to be quick in his pursuit of God and to be quick to avoid sin. Secondly, the word delight carries with it a literal smell. The same word, delight, in the Hebrew means to “delight in the odours” of anything. In other words, Jesus was to give off the fragrance of the fear of the Lord. Psalm 19:9 tells us, - **“The fear of the LORD is clean”** it is not stinky with the corruption of the flesh or the world getting in the way.

If we truly believe God’s Word is true, then it is very important for us to know this relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Fear of the Lord. We must become quick to fear God and must endeavour to give off a godly fragrance to the world around us; at work, at play or at home. People must see our delighting in the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. The fear of God is meant to be public not private.

Proverbs 19:23 - Fear of the LORD leads to life, bringing security and protection from harm. Isn’t this truly what everyone is looking for; life, security, & protection from any harm.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of God releasing answers to life’s questions. I don’t know about you, but it is important for me to get answers from God for my life!!!

In Conclusion:

Isaiah 11:2 - The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD... This morning we can see these characteristics of the Holy Spirit are a must in the Life of every believer. We all long to experience the Spirit of God resting upon our lives, making his home within us, and filling us with his spiritual knowledge and a healthy fear of God. The abiding Presence of the Spirit of God gives life meaning and purpose. God does not stop with his Spirit dwelling in us, he gives us the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, counsel and power, knowledge and the Fear of the Lord!

This morning everyone fits in one of these categories:

- You have never really made Jesus Lord of your life so you know do not know the Spirit of God. You need to become a follower of Jesus Christ, allowing him to forgive your sins and bring you into a repentant and godly life.
- You are a believer but you have never experienced the resting of the Spirit upon your life. The Spirit is real to you in the reality of your salvation, but you have never experienced his power touch your life.
- You have made Jesus your Savior but you know by self examination that you are not living in surrender to the Holy Spirit. The sinful nature is more prevalent than the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and power, knowledge and the fear of God.

What is the answer? The scripture says “be filled” with the Spirit!

Eph 5:15-20 - Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today let’s ask God for more of his Spirit to fill our lives...