

1 Corinthians #5
The Anointing From Within
1 Corinthians 2:12

In our last study we were admonished by Paul to proclaim the message of the cross, to recognize that Jesus Christ did not lay down His life as the ultimate sacrifice just to get a bunch of selfish sinners to agree to go to heaven, but that you and I might have life and have it more abundantly.

There is a unique factor in the Christian gospel, which makes all talk about comparative religions utterly beside the point, in my opinion. The life of the Founder of our faith inhabits the personality of every person who trusts Him for salvation; every child of God has living within him God the Holy Spirit, not an influence, but the Third Person of the Trinity.

Listen to these words in 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." 1 John 2:20, 27 reads like this, "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things...But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."

A careful study of Scripture makes it very clear that every believer has an "anointing" that abides within him, because the Holy Spirit comes in us in the New Birth, as seen in Romans 8:9, "Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is one of his."

I am convinced that believers today have vastly underestimated the power of the Holy Spirit. If we truly understood and believed what the Bible tells us about Him, we would never worry about anything again. All hell has to offer could come against us and we wouldn't fear. We would just grin and say, "Bring it on, devil! The Greater One lives within me and He has given me all the wisdom, strength, power and provision I need to crush you like a bug."

Right now you may think you could never have that kind of boldness. But let me ask you something: **What would you do if Jesus appeared to you today?** How would you act if He linked His arm in yours and told you that from now on, He would be physically present with you in every situation? **If you became sick, He would lay His hand on you and you would be healed.** If you ran short of money, He would pray and multiply your resources. If you encountered a problem you didn't know how to handle, He would tell you exactly what to do.

Under those circumstances, you would be very bold and confident, wouldn't you? Every time you ran into trouble, you would just glance over at Jesus standing next to you and suddenly, you would have great courage.

Of course, there is one problem. The fact is, you don't have that advantage. You don't have Jesus standing next to you in the flesh taking care of your every need.

But 1 Corinthians 2:12 says you do have something better, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given of God.” **I realize it is difficult to believe there is anything more beneficial than Jesus' physical presence.** But there is. Jesus said so Himself in John 14:19-20, “Yet a little while, and the world beholdeth me no more; but ye behold me: because I live, ye shall live also. In that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”

In the hours just before He was crucified, He told His disciples that He would be leaving them and returning to His Father in heaven. When they expressed their sorrow and dismay, He said, “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.... I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you” (John 14:16-17, 16:7).

To fully grasp the impact of this last statement, you have to realize that Jesus was talking to a group of men who had followed Him day and night for three years. They had seen His miracles. They had enjoyed perfect protection and provision at His hand.

Peter was sitting there among them. Can't you just imagine what was running through his mind?

No doubt he was thinking of the first time Jesus had borrowed his boat. After He had finished preaching from it, He said to Peter, "Grab your nets and we'll go catch us some fish." It was the middle of the day. **Peter knew you couldn't catch fish in the daylight in that lake - the water was too clear.** The fish would see the net and run from it.

But just to humor Him, Peter had did what Jesus said and ended up with a net-busting, boat-sinking load of fish. What a day!

Then there was the time Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of a deadly fever. Cured her instantly!

Even that didn't hold a candle to what happened on the Mount of Transfiguration. That day Peter had actually seen Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. He had watched His body transfigure before his very eyes. He saw seen the shining cloud of glory and heard the awesome voice of Almighty God!

As those events passed through Peter's mind, he must have wondered, "How can it possibly be expedient or to my advantage for Jesus to go away?"

Knowing that question was in the heart of every one of His disciples, Jesus said, in essence, "I know this is hard for you to believe, but trust Me on this. I'm not lying to you. It's better for you if I go away so that I can send the Holy Spirit to not only be with you, but to be in you!"

It has been 2,000 years since Jesus said that and most of us are still struggling to fully believe it. Theologically, we know it's true, and we thank God that we are born again and placed into the Body of Christ. But then we open our mouths and say things like, "If I could just feel Jesus' hand on my head, it would be easier for me to receive my healing."

Why is that? Why is it so difficult for us to believe Jesus' promise?

I believe it's because we haven't truly appreciated the might and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We have not yet fully comprehended the truth of Who this is that is living inside us.

Many Christians, for example, seem to think the first time the Holy Spirit did much of anything was on the Day of Pentecost. But that's not true. The Holy Spirit has been at work on this planet ever since the beginning. **Look at the Book of Genesis and you can see that for yourself.** In Genesis 1:1-3 we are told, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

Think about that! The Holy Spirit was hovering, waiting to create. Then the moment God spoke the Word, "Light be!" (literal Hebrew translation), the Spirit sprang into action and slung this universe into being. And that is how the Bible introduces us to the Holy Spirit!

You see, the Holy Spirit is the muscle of God. Every time you see God's power in manifestation, you can be sure the Holy Spirit is on the scene.

When the Holy Spirit came on Samson, he single-handedly killed a thousand Philistine soldiers (see Judges 15:14-16). Can you imagine how embarrassing that must have been for the Philistines who escaped? They probably went running back to headquarters all beat up and breathless with the story of this terrible massacre.

I can almost hear their commander's response. "A thousand men killed? A thousand? That's awful! How many Israelites were you up against?" And the response, "Uh, well, sir...actually just one."

Some people get the idea that Samson was able to do those great exploits because he was a giant of a man. But he was really just an ordinary fellow. He only became extraordinary when the Spirit of God came on him.

The prophet Elijah was the same way. On his own, he was just as normal as you and me. He was once so frightened by the threats of a woman that he hid in the wilderness and asked God to kill him so he wouldn't have to face her.

But when the Holy Spirit came on him, Elijah was a powerhouse. He once called down fire from heaven, killed 400 prophets of Baal, and outran the king's chariot (drawn, no doubt, by the fastest horses in the nation of Israel). And he did it all in one day (see 1 Kings 18-19).

Don't get the idea from those examples, however, that the Holy Spirit is simply a mindless source of raw power. Far from it! When He moves in on a situation, He does it with wisdom and understanding so vast that it staggers the human mind.

Isaiah 40:13 say, "Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor hath taught him?" Now verse 12 sets the stage, "Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?"

Consider for a moment what kind of mind could take a handful of water, weigh it and then compute all the moisture changes of the earth that would take place over untold thousands of years. What kind of mind could take a handful of dust, weigh it, and then figure out how to form the earth - mountains and all - in such a way that it would always stay in perfect balance? That's the kind of mind the Spirit of God has!

When He put this earth together, He did it so perfectly that it can travel 1,000 miles an hour in one direction and 10,000 miles an hour in another, both

at the same time, without ever getting the slightest degree off course. He constructed it so that it could compensate for all the movement of the tides and all the use and abuse it would receive at the hands of man and still make its way through the heavens exactly on time.

Listen, that is the One Who is planning your life! That is the One Who dwells within you and walks within you. 1 Corinthians 6:17 says that when you join yourself to the Lord, you become one spirit with Him. And He does not change or shrink up His abilities so that He could fit them inside you.

No, if you have been saved, by faith in Christ, He is everything in you that He has ever been. He has the same awesome power. He has the same astounding ability to compute, to comprehend and plan in infinite detail everything that has ever been...everything that now is...and everything that ever will be!

What's more, when you run into something you can't handle and you call on Him for help, He's not a million light years away. He's right there inside you! He's ready to supply you with whatever you need. He's ready to be your comforter. Ready to be your teacher and your trainer. Ready to be your advocate, your standby, and your counselor. He's ready to put His supernatural muscle and mind to work for you 24 hours a day.

You might be thinking, "Well then, why hasn't He helped me before now? Heaven knows I've needed it!"

Well, the truth of the matter is that He has been waiting for you to give Him something He can work with. He has been waiting there inside you just like He hovered over the face of the waters in Genesis, waiting for you to speak the Word of God in faith.

That has been His role since the beginning - to move on God's Word and deliver the power necessary to cause that Word to manifest in the earth. That's what He did at creation...and that's what He is commissioned to do for you.

But remember, if you are walking around talking doubt, unbelief and other worthless junk, He is severely limited. He won't slap His hand over your mouth and say, "You dummy, I don't care what you say, I'm going to bless you anyway."

He will never force anything on you. He will just wait quietly for you to speak your faith and open the door for Him to work.

So, tonight, why not decide to believe the Word, speak your faith, and opening that door. Develop an awareness of the reality of the Holy Spirit within you. Stop spending all your time meditating on the problems you are facing and start spending it meditating on the power of the One inside you Who can solve the problems. In other words, start becoming more God-minded!