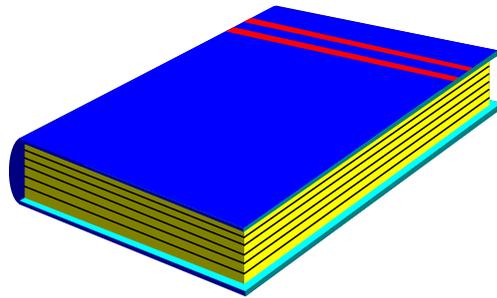


THEWORD

BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS



FIRM FOUNDATIONS COURSE

PARTTEN

THE SPIRIT FILLED CHURCH

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

The object of this study is

TO DISCOVER AND PROVE: -

The reality of life as it should be found in a church filled with The Holy Spirit

On completion of this study you will have: -

- An understanding of the lordship of The Holy Spirit in your church
- The knowledge of the freedom that He brings
- Discovered that every member of the church is able to minister according to their own gifts
- Made a basic study of 'signs and wonders' through the church

NOTES

There are four practical aspects to these courses; exercises, Bible reading, learning and questions. The following notes are for your guidance:-

- 1. Exercises** are to be written in your own words and returned to the Course Administrator through whom this course was given to you or returned to the address below.
- 2. Bible reading** is to be done at the point of the course where you are asked to read. Do not just read the passage but meditate upon it before continuing.
- 3. Learning.** These are usually short passages of the Bible for you to learn so that you are able to speak them without reference to the Bible.
- 4. Questions** are listed at the end of each study and are to be answered when you are satisfied that you have completed the study. Your answers can be sent back to your Course Administrator or e-mailed or posted to the address below.

Once you have completed the work you can e-mail it to stangain@btinternet.com for assessment. On successful completion of the whole course a certificate will be sent to you.

If you were given this course by your Course Administrator then return your work only to him. If this course came to you direct from London then please post your work to:-

Stan Gain
The Word Bible Training Course
285 Montrose Avenue
Welling
Kent DA16 2QU
ENGLAND

Under the Lordship of The Holy Spirit

In the last study we looked at some of the changes that the indwelling of The Holy Spirit makes to our lives. Much of what we saw was personal and affected the life of each individual. In this study we will go on to look at the effects that the baptism in The Holy Spirit has on both the life of the church and of the people around us. In this two part study we will look firstly at His effects “in” the church and secondly at His effects “through” the church.

We should be able to see a difference in a church that acknowledges and lives in the power of The Holy Spirit. Paul indicates one of these changes in 2 Corinthians 3:17: -

Learn ‘Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty’

The Holy Spirit is Lord. He is part of the one true God and therefore, as believers, we should also acknowledge the lordship of The Holy Spirit in our lives and in our churches. The title belongs by right to all three persons of the Godhead: -

- God the Father is Lord;
- God the Son is Lord;
- God the Holy Spirit is Lord.

In the above passage, Paul is emphasising the sovereignty of The Holy Spirit within the church of which Jesus Christ is the head. Paul also acknowledges that where The Holy Spirit is given this position then within the life and worship of the church there is freedom. Where The Spirit is Lord there is liberty – but where there is liberty there is also order.

Freedom and Order

The vital principle in a Spirit filled church is that there must be freedom and order. It may seem that these two qualities are opposite to each other. If there is order, how can there be freedom? If there is freedom, how can there be order?

In Kenya in 1963 when the country gained independence ‘Uhuru’ or freedom was declared. However, there was still a need for government to give rule and order. Citizens could not do just as they pleased or there would have been chaos in the country. Freedom can only be true freedom when coupled with responsibility and discipline.

This principle applies to Spiritual freedom. We must lead a disciplined life both personally and in our churches so that there might be order. For example, if a person is leading a church in prayer and others are praying out loud in such a way that he cannot be heard, how can there be an “Amen” to what was said? No one could hear the prayer! There must be discipline and order and rule in the congregation. Similarly, if a man is preaching, and another stands to give a message in tongues or a prophecy, where is order? Where is discipline?

Exercise 1

Study carefully 1 Corinthians 14. In this chapter Paul makes many statements about discipline and order both in the use of Spiritual gifts and in the church. Write out every verse from this chapter that makes such a reference.

Sons not Slaves

In the passage that you studied above, Paul says that “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets”. This verse has a two-fold meaning. Firstly, that any manifestation of The Holy Spirit, (that is, given by God) will tend to bring peace and harmony and not confusion and disorder. Secondly, Paul says that the prophets have control over their own spirits. They are not ‘taken over’ by The Holy Spirit to speak against their will. If a person manifests a gift of The Holy Spirit, that interrupts the flow of a meeting, it is of his own doing. He cannot say, “I could not help it. The Holy Spirit made me do it.” The Holy Spirit will never override the will of a believer to force him to do something against his own will.

God has called us to be His Sons, but in any family the children are under the authority of the father as the head of the family. We can only exercise authority if we are ourselves under the authority of another. A sergeant in the army can only exercise authority over his troops if he himself is under the authority of his general. The general is himself also under the authority of his President who is responsible to his nation. It is necessary for all believers, whatever their calling from God, to be accountable to, or under the authority of, another man.

Exercise 2

Read Matthew 8: 5-13. The Centurion knew himself to be a man under authority, and compared himself to Jesus who was also under authority: -

- a) Explain in your own words what it means to be ‘under authority’
- b) How do you understand that Jesus is under authority?
- c) Apart from being under the authority of God, are you under the authority of another man to whom you are accountable?
- d) Allow The Holy Spirit to teach you other truths from this passage and write down what new understanding He gives you from this passage.

When a believer is exercising a Spiritual gift, his spirit will remain under his own control. He is free to exercise that gift or not to exercise it at the time that he believes is the most appropriate occasion. This is one of the things that enables us to discern whether a manifestation is from The Holy Spirit, a demonic spirit or the human spirit. In the pagan practice of spiritism or in the case of demon possession the person taking part becomes controlled by the spirit and often has no control over what he says or does.

God The Holy Spirit will never abuse a person in such a way. It is God who has given us the gift of free will and has given us our personality. When God gives a gift to a person, that person has full control over the manifestation of the gift.

Satan makes slaves, but God makes sons”

God does not put the believer in the position of a slave in bondage. He has given us the full rights and privileges as sons of God.

Learn the following verses: -

‘For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.’

(Romans 8:15 –16)

We are free sons not bound slaves. True freedom is impossible without proper rule. The freedom that wishes to set aside discipline, rule and order will only end in confusion and disorder. True spiritual liberty is only possible where there is Spiritual rule. This rule, which God has appointed for the church, is that of The Holy Spirit.

The Author and Interpreter of the Bible

We saw in an earlier study that The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible (remember verse 16 of 2 Timothy chapter3). However He is also the interpreter of the Bible. We read this in 1 Corinthians 2:11 – 14)

‘For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is within him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God,** for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.**’

It is only by the power of The Holy Spirit that we are able to interpret the things of God. Without The Spirit we are unable to understand the things of God. It follows, therefore, that any action of The Holy Spirit through an individual believer will always be in agreement with the Word of God. He will never ask us to do anything that is contrary to His Word. The teaching of the Bible and the manifestations of The Holy Spirit must always be in agreement.

It is of the utmost importance that leaders in a Spirit filled church are familiar with the Word of God. They should read, meditate and study it regularly. They should direct their

conduct, their speech and their lives in such a way that their testimony will bear witness to the Word of God. The Spirit filled leader of a church must be fully submitted to The Holy Spirit if he is to be able to correctly direct the ministry of the whole congregation in accordance with Biblical principles and the will of God.

Total Participation of All the People

In many churches there is a problem that the appointed leader is the one who wants to do or expects to do all the ministry in the church. He must lead the meetings; he must do the administration; he must visit the sick; he must do all the preaching. This is not a biblical situation. Even if two or three people are involved in the running of the church it is still not a biblical pattern. A study of the New Testament will quickly reveal that there is active participation by all the members of the church. Allowing the rule of The Holy Spirit in the church is the only way to bring this about.

Just as in a physical body every part is expected to do its work, so it is in the church that every member should play an effective and full and vital role .

Learn Romans 12:4-6: -

‘For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.’

We can learn from this that the various gifts are not just meant for the individual use of the ones who receive them. Each member with all his gifts belongs to everyone else. When the gifts of The Spirit are allowed to be manifested in this way then the whole life and worship of the church will be transformed. If all the parts of the human body are not functioning as they should then that body is disabled. If all the members of the church are not functioning as they should, then ‘the church body’ is disabled.

What is the result of this total participation in the life of the church? 1 Corinthians 14:26 tells us that: -

‘Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all these things be done for edification.’

‘Each of us’ has something to give for the strengthening of all. Too often today, church life has become a way of life whereby people belong because of what they can receive rather than what they can give. The New Testament pattern is that everyone came to give something for the common good. This can only happen when The Holy Spirit is Lord of the church and when the individual members have been baptised in and filled with The Holy Spirit. The ability of believers to minister to one another effectively is due to the fact that they have received these supernatural gifts. They are lifted out of the limitations

of their own natural ability into a higher realm of spiritual freedom. Then the church is able to fulfil its role as the Body of Christ.

Exercise 3

Read Matthew 20:20-28. Jesus said “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many”.

- a) Give at least 3 examples from the gospels where Jesus served others – it may be in a practical or a spiritual way.
- b) Write about how the members of your church serve each other and also about other areas in which they could begin to serve in a new way.

(FOR YOUR OWN REFLECTION AND NOT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOUR COURSE ADMINISTRATOR.)
As a leader in your church are there any areas of service that you are involved in that you are doing because of what you receive. It may be that you are a pastor because of the money or that you enjoy leading because of the praise from other people. Ask The Holy Spirit to show you any areas that you are not aware of and seek to prayerfully put right any area that you see to be wrong.

These Signs Will Follow Those That Believe

We have seen in the first part of this study that the ministry of the church is not just for leaders but for every member of the church. Similarly, the gifts of The Spirit are not given just for the church. Sometimes the gifts are given for the building up of the members of the church, but they are also given so that the power of God may be demonstrated to non-believers as the church witnesses to the gospel in evangelism. We are supposed to preach the gospel not just with words but with a demonstration of the power of God. There is, of course, power in the verbal presentation of the Gospel but there should also be a demonstration of that power. Paul said in the introduction to his first letter to the Corinthians: -

‘When I came to you, I did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.’ (1 Corinthians. 2:1-5)

Paul states very clearly that when a verbal presentation of the Gospel in which persuasive words, human wisdom or excellent speaking are used alone, there is the possibility of men putting their trust in human arguments rather than the cross, blood and sacrifice of Jesus only. The demonstration of the power of God through the gifts of The Holy Spirit will convince people that the ‘Gospel is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes’ (Romans 1:16).

Exercise 4

Learn the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:15-18)

- a) Who spoke these words?
- b) Are the signs for leaders only?
- c) Who are the signs for?
- d) Are they for use only in the church?
- e) Jesus said. "Go". Where did He tell us to go and what should we expect to happen according to Mark 16 verse 20?

Understanding the Gospel

One definition of the word 'Gospel' is 'Good Message' In the New Testament it signifies the Good Message of the kingdom of God and of the salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ that is received by faith.

The 'Good Message' of the kingdom of God is proclaimed every time that the kingdom of darkness is weakened by an act of power at the hand of God. Every time that a person is healed or delivered from demons or born again through faith in Jesus Christ, then the kingdom of darkness is weakened and the kingdom of God is advanced.

Salvation is of the whole man. We learned in an earlier study that man is made in the image of God – a trinity of body soul and spirit. Jesus died that all the works of the devil might be destroyed. That is his work of death against the spirit (salvation), his work of demonisation and oppression against the soul (deliverance) and his work of sickness and infirmity against the body (healing). Jesus died that we might have life and have it in abundance.

Therefore, as we preach the gospel, let us minister in the power of God through the gifts of The Holy Spirit to bring wholeness to men and women. Let us pray for the sick; let us expect words of knowledge; let us seek for discernment of spirits and miracles as we declare a message of salvation. God promises to work to confirm His word with signs following. Signs and wonders will draw people to an acceptance of Jesus faster than our words alone.

New Testament Evangelism

The remainder of this study will be looking at Biblical examples from New Testament accounts from the life of Jesus and the early believers of this 'Holy Spirit evangelism'. It is difficult to find an example of the preaching of the Gospel or of a meeting with those in need when Jesus did not use at least one spiritual gift to bring about belief in Him. In the same way, in the Acts of the Apostles we read account after account of the power of God confirming His Word as the early believers declared with boldness the 'Good Message' of the kingdom of God.

There are three broad categories into which these power encounters can be placed.

1. **Human Need.** This is sometimes referred to as a 'felt need'. This is where an individual has a particular need for which he is seeking an answer. This may be a practical, material need or a need for healing prayer etc. This need can bring about a situation that God can use to bring a person to salvation.
2. **Divine Appointment.** This is an 'appointed time' in which God meets an individual or a group of people through either spiritual gifts or some other spiritual happening.
3. **Power Encounter.** This can be described as a clashing of the power of the kingdom of God with the power of the kingdom of satan.

In each of these three categories we will study one example together and the remaining three exercises will enable you to find the ways in which spiritual gifts are used in various situations.

Human Need

Read Mark 5:21-42. This is the story of the raising of Jairus' daughter. There is also an interesting power encounter in the middle of this story with the woman with the issue of blood.

Note the following: -

- **There was a human (or felt) need.** "My little daughter lies at the point of death."
- **There was an understanding of what Jesus could do.** "Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and that she may live."
- **There was a demonstration of the power of God with Spiritual gifts.**
 - a) **Word of Knowledge:** "Do not be afraid, only believe"
 - b) **Faith:** Jesus ignored what was said about the death of the girl

- c) **Miraculous Power:** She was raised from the dead
- **Evangelism Result** There was saving faith ‘They were overcome with great amazement’.

Exercise 5

Study Acts 9:32-43. Using the pattern shown in the example above (Jairus' Daughter) in both of the examples of 1) Aeneas and 2) Dorcas demonstrate: -

- a) the need of the person
- b) the spiritual gifts that were used
- c) the evangelism result of the use of spiritual gifts

Divine Appointment

Read John 4: 1-26. This is the wonderful story of the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Note how gently Jesus speaks to and deals with this woman.

Again, note the following: -

- **There was a divine appointment** at Jacob's Well. I am sure that Jesus knew that he would meet this woman at this time of day.
- **There was a demonstration of the power of God with spiritual gifts**
 - a) **Words of Knowledge:** “You have well said, ‘I have no husband’, for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband.”
“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did.”
- **Evangelism Result:** repentance and belief. ‘Many of the Samaritans of that City believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified’. “Now we believe, not because of what you (the woman) said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.”

Exercise 6

Study Luke 19:1-10. This is the story of Zacchaeus. In the same way that you did in Exercise 5 demonstrate: -

- a) the divine appointment
- b) the spiritual gift(s) that were used

- c) the evangelism result of the use of spiritual gifts

Power Encounter

Read Acts 2:1-41. This is the story of the coming of The Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and the birth of the church.

Once again note the following: -

- **There was a power encounter:** ‘Suddenly, there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.’
- **There was a sign from God:** ‘There appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.’
- **There was a demonstration of the power of God with spiritual gifts:** ‘They were all filled with The Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as The Spirit gave them utterance.’
- **Evangelism Result:** After the preaching of the Gospel under the anointing of The Holy Spirit, ‘those who gladly received the word were baptised; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them (the church).’

Exercise 7

Study Acts 5:12-16, an example of the continuing power of God demonstrated in the church. As you did in exercises 5 and 6, demonstrate: -

- a) the power encounter
- b) the spiritual gift(s) that were used
- c) the evangelism result of the use of spiritual gifts

These examples help us to understand the dynamic power of God that was evident in the life of the early believers in the church. The same dynamic power is available also for us today as we step out in faith in receiving from God and passing on the gifts and demonstrating the gifts to others.

We should expect the power of the Holy Spirit to be evident both in our churches and through our churches as we witness and evangelise to extend the kingdom of God. This is what a Spirit filled church should be.

Questions

Part 10

1. What does 2 Corinthians 3:17 say?
2. Is it possible to have freedom and order together in the church?
3. In what way is discipline in both personal life and the church necessary to establish both freedom and order?
4. In 1 Corinthians 14:27 it says that if someone speaks in a public meeting in a tongue it is necessary for there to be an interpretation. Why?
5. Satan makes But God makes
6. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible. Who is the interpreter?
7. How many people in a church should minister the spiritual gifts?
8. Jesus did not come to serve but to
9. When Paul went to the Corinthians he did not use persuasive words, human wisdom or excellent speaking. What did he use?
10. When believers go out and preach the Gospel, what does God promise to do according to Mark 16?
11. Give a definition of the word 'Gospel'
12. Into which three categories can power encounters be placed?
13. In the story of Dorcas in Acts Chapter 9, what was the result of the ministry to the needs of Dorcas?
14. What are the nine gifts of the Spirit as listed in 1 Corinthians 12?
15. Jesus met a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. What was the major spiritual gift that he used in bringing her to salvation?
16. Why should we expect a manifestation of spiritual gifts today?
17. What were the early disciples doing when The Holy Spirit came upon them on the Day of Pentecost?