

## Facts About An Empowered Faith

Believers are led by the Holy Spirit to the Lord

Believers are led by the Holy Spirit in the Lord

Believers are shielded by the Holy Spirit from overwhelming evil before you returned to God to preserve the free will choice of whom we will serve.

Believers are shielded by the Holy Spirit from overwhelming evil after you return to God to be effective in knowing and growing and going in ministry for the Lord.

Believers are not a totally free agent. Many live under the allusion that they are free to do what they please. But everything they do, every choice they make serves the purposes of one of two lords.

The Lord of creation or the Prince of this World.. There are no other categories under which our thoughts, our intentions and our actions fall except those two. We either serve God or we are working for His adversary.

The Holy Spirit enforces God's will on the Prince of this World so that we have a free choice - the Holy Spirit is the only restricter on what he does.

- His evil desires go beyond what he is allowed to do.
- In yourself and in your own capacities you could never stand against the wiles of Satan or his accompanying spiritual forces.
- But God has given us **AUTHORITY AND FREEDOM OVER THE DETERMINATION OF OUR DESTINY.**

Your Choice in this matter is the only free will choice you have.

Everything else flows from this basic life focus and decision for good or for evil.

What Does the Scriptures say.....did Jesus say..... the Spirit's role would be

Comforter

Counsellor

Guide in and to truth

Empowerer - in faith and deed - as evidenced throughout the Acts and Epistles

The purpose of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life? You shall receive power.

God doesn't lead us to belief and to becoming Children of God....*and then fail to give His children the power and authority to be EFFECTIVE representatives of Him.*

The less it's about us and the more it's about Him in our lives, the more power and authority we will find we have in and through the Holy Spirit. The more submitted we are to God and to each other, the more the Spirit works THROUGH us and the less the Spirit has to work ON us.

1. Before we become Christians the Spirit can work ON us - **on our Conscience**
2. As we become children of God the Spirit works IN us - **in our Conviction**
3. When we are walking in the Lord, the Spirit works THROUGH us - **through our Commitment**

**When God gives work to be done - He gives the authority and the tools to accomplish what is asked.**

God does not set us up for failure.....we are quite capable of that on our own  
God asks us to do what He asks that He might receive the loyalty and glory He is  
worthy to receive from all creation.... and will receive from all creation that willing  
to respond to His selfless Love over the Prince of this World's self centered love.

1 Corinthians 12:1 - 31 (NIV) <sup>1</sup>*Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.*

God's gifts of power and fruitfulness are not meant for personal ego or boasting, but are  
meant to be used for the Good of others and the Glory of God.

<sup>2</sup>*You know that when you were pagans, -  
(understand that to be all NON BELIEVERS)*

*somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.*

- - Paul offers the basic question of hind sight.....
- how could reasonable people give control over their hearts and minds to believe that man made inanimate objects how power over their futures?

<sup>3</sup>*Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed,"  
The Spirit never denies Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the only begotten Son of God.*

The first Adam was created of the earth itself without prior history of mankind.  
God breathed his Spirit on Adam and Adam became a living being.... Made  
in the image of God.

The second Adam was created by God in a woman of this earth and was created  
with a history of mankind's sin, but the Son's uncorrupted spiritual being  
the other half of that miraculous conception. A body from the earth, but a  
the Son's Spirit entering that egg to complete this perfect conception from  
God....a man with a pure and uncorrupted Spirit from God once again  
walking the earth.

*and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

In the Old Testament - the Holy Spirit came and went on individuals.... Usually evidenced  
as the Spirit of a Prophet...speaking the things of God, or in miracles that happened  
through Prophets, Judges or Nazerites, or some individuals like Daniel (Beltshazar),  
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. who had the hand of God on their lives, and  
occasionally through instructions about battles and other leadership decisions given  
directly through godly kings.

**BUT UNLIKE SOME CHRISTIAN THINKING....**

The Holy Spirit is threaded throughout the Old Testament.

STARTING IN ACTS.... As Jesus promised... The Holy Spirit was poured out ACROSS the  
fellowship of all believers for the Biblical declared purposes of God.

The Holy Spirit's presence can be observed to be only limited by our faith, obedience, and  
by God's purposes and timing in accomplishing what God wants to do through us as  
individuals and as part of the family of God.

The whole book of Acts records the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in the early days of the followers.

What has the body of Christ done with Spiritual gifts since the time of the Apostles?

- Wandered from using them, to denying them to ignoring them to idolizing certain of them.
- Forgetting that there is a Holy Spirit to empower
- And often also forgetting that not every power spirit is from God.

What is the Biblical truth and the Biblical balance of faith and obedience in the Holy Spirit?

We'll skip over the distinctions of the gifts this week to work with the concept of the unity and harmony of the gifts in this first discussion.

Paul starts by talking about the over riding canopy that must be seen transcending the uniqueness of the individual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives.

While acknowledging the uniqueness look at each of the "But's" that Paul stresses.

*<sup>4</sup>There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.*

**The wholeness and interdependence of the body over the individuality.**

*<sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. <sup>12</sup>The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*

**[THERE IS IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM No personal seeking of personal glory in the role or gifting that God gives. Just the joy of bringing glory to Him and being fruitful in](#)**

*accomplishing things that can't be stolen, broken, or suffer from deterioration like everything that clings or belongs to this creation does.*

*<sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

**What affects one affects all. When one is blessed we all are blessed. When one grieves...we all should naturally grieve. When we don't, we have not yet reached the unity of our faith. We have not yet reached the fullness of commitment that empowers and releases the greater working of the Holy Spirit through us.**

*<sup>28</sup>And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.*

**Paul lists some of the distinctions.....and then cautions them not to compare or contrast their spiritual gifts one to the other.**

*<sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.*