

E-votional 79

Working of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (KJV)

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Praise the Lord! And to Him be all glory and honor and fame through His church for all generations!

When reading this passage it is important to understand that each item before the gifts are presented (gifts, administrations, and operations) are equally distributed by God when the Scripture says, "but it is the same God which worketh all in all." Why am I presenting this message in this fashion?

Well, my premise here is to encourage the saints of God through Jesus Christ to rely wholeheartedly upon the work of the Holy Spirit alone. I say it like this because in this day and age there are so many human tactics that people employ in their Christian walk to help them and each other grow, but not all are as described here with the understanding of the gifts and the operations of the Spirit.

For example, the gift of wisdom is not exclusive to a person's age nor is it exclusive to what that person may or may not have gone through and as such learned from, although at times these can be the vehicles that are used by the Holy Spirit to teach through they are not the source of the wisdom. Along with this, the gift of knowledge is not reduced merely to a good knowledge of the Bible

that was accrued through hours of analytical study. If it were, one would not need the Holy Spirit nor would they need to even be a believer. In other words, it is not a matter of works but of faith that these gifts and the work of the Holy Spirit are engaged and illuminated in a believer. This idea is further illustrated in the context of the phrase I repeated in the last paragraph that read, "but it is the same God which worketh all in all."

From the 'Helps Word Studies,' taken from https://biblehub.com/greek/1754.htm, the word worketh means this,

1754 energéō (from 1722/en, "engaged in," which intensifies 2041 /érgon, "work") – properly, energize, working in a situation which brings it from one stage (point) to the next, like an electrical current energizing a wire, bringing it to a shining light bulb.

So, in short, it is God who worketh or rather energizes each gift of the Spirit and each office and operation in the church. Shouldn't we desire this to be the case in our churches more and more? Then I wonder, why do we settle for less than this and reduce the work of the Holy Spirit to hours of analytical study and human administration rather than the development of the enabling of the Spirit? After all, the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.

I am further reminded of the Apostle Paul's claim in Galatians 3:2 (KJV),

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Oh, if the church would have this faith renewed in her, we would see such unity in the body of Christ.

To further clarify this premise here, I would like to add that one can indeed study the Bible for hours and hours, and such study is good and right and true. Yet at the same time study should be as such, when a person relying wholeheartedly upon the Lord for understanding they receive revelation and a flood of true understanding. This flood of true understanding is also not exclusive to just direct revelation to one individual but includes other members of the church body all doing their part. One illustration of this is of Phillip in Acts 8:26-40 when they were right in the middle of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Samarai an Angel of the Lord directed Phillip to the desert. There Phillip met an Ethiopian eunuch who just happened to be reading Isaiah and wondering about whom Isaiah was writing about, imagine that right. Praise the Lord! So from that point, Phillip was used in bringing revelation to the Ethiopian eunuch which brought salvation to him and a deep understanding of God's Word.

Basically, if the Holy Spirit wrote it, we should come to Him for the understanding of it and stop trying in our own strength. We have today so many people coming up with their own interpretations that it makes me often wonder if they ever prayed about it before reading and studying. It really amounts to seeking God and waiting on Him to reveal in whichever way He chooses.

Furthermore, the gifts as those received by the working or 'energeo' of God are just that a gift not a result of works. Listen, I thank God that I am not that bright to come up with these interpretations on my own, for I would only make a mess of it with my own human reasoning.

Let me give a human example. I was introduced to a method of studying the Bible some years ago called the Inductive Bible Study. This method was a serious, methodical, and analytical approach to deriving understanding of the Scriptures. Now, I am not sharing this to shame anyone that studies in this manner, I am just trying to enhance and edify the believers to dive deeper in their reliance upon God either in it or outside of it, that is not for me to judge.

I am going to be completely honest though, as I was fully endeavoring to apply this to my Bible study, it often left me feeling dumb and confused. Other times, I walked away with a head filled with knowledge but lacked an authentic work of the Holy Spirit where He would edify me and give me a heart filled with knowledge. I am not saying that the Holy Spirit cannot use this method at all, but what I am saying is that it is dangerous to rely only on human analytical methods rather than on the Spirit of the living God. After all, it is He that is supposed to be working in us.

I hope in many ways that we can come back to the heart of worship where we are so surrendered to the leading of the Holy Spirit that we would each grow to new heights and new depths. I further believe that if we all were in tune with God in this way that the rest of the gifts would then have the ability to flow through the entire body. As it is, we have grown accustomed to only hearing a few people speak the word of God. I believe every member of the body could have an experience with God that would in turn edify and encourage the others. We need in the church today more of a platform for the Holy Spirit to fully work in than in what we have made it out to be today. Come on church, lets rise to the fulness of what God has promised us in Christ Jesus! Hallelujah!

1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV),

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

We love you all and encourage you in the Lord to be one as we are to be in Christ and Christ with the Father. This is only accomplished the closer and more yielded we each are individually to the work and leading of the Holy Spirit. The Lord bless you and keep you in Jesus name. Amen.

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