

DiscipleShip 401 Chapter 03

Open with insights from the last week on the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

As discussed previously, the mandate of the Holy Spirit is to grow the church. It is to establish leadership, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and work through them to build the Body of Christ in maturity and unity of faith. The only way true unity can be accomplished is being led by faith through the Holy Spirit. The church needs to grow in it's ability to move in obedience in faith under the authority of the Lord. He wants to accomplish his purposes.

Luke 18:8, ... However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

This statement says that our part is to believe and trust with perseverance in the Lord to fulfil his purposes. We must act in faith and obedience. We will look here at what hinders us in faith.

The basic fundamentals must be taught in the church and pursued to be brought to maturity. If you can't believe God at his word on fundamental truths that are in black and white, you can't believe God on the work of his Spirit that takes you to maturity in Christ.

Colossians 3:5-10, Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

You should be aware that when you come to Christ you are sanctified to a certain measure according to the strength of faith in your commitment. When others with a strong anointing pray for you, you are given more and an enhancement of what the Lord wants to give you. It's up to you on what you do with the extra spiritual help given you. Don't squander it.

This is what happens with the experience of the Baptism of the Spirit. It's not so important what you start with as what you do with what you are given. As God increases you spiritually, the deeper the work of sanctification has to be so that the devil doesn't have openings to use against you. Again as the individuals under the mantle of authority increase, The mantle's strength increases. The corporate mantle has greater power.

Take time out now to pray as a group for a greater sanctification from the carnal disposition, for a greater walk of faith and greater awareness of God's Spirit. Discuss implications.

Hebrews 6:1-8, Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,^[a] and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites,^[b] the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.

⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen^[c] away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. ⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Discuss how the carnal disposition can easily be used by the enemy to overcome your desire to do God's will. God doesn't allow the enemy to oppress you more than you are able to bear but uses your struggles to strengthen you. You must still put off the carnal disposition as it comes up as this is how you are further sanctified. He wants to increase you but doesn't want to lose you.

Acts 19:1-10, While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ... So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Revelation 2:1-6, "To the angel^[a] of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

You must guard the heart and mind. Discuss this. Pray for each other accordingly.

