The Work of the Holy Spirit

His Power, Presence and Relevance Today

RUTH DICKSON

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The Work of the Holy Spirit. His Power, Presence and Relevance Today.

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SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to thank Jo and Roger Kemp who played a fundamental role in me starting and completing this book.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the Holy Spirit who has given me the grace, zeal and anointing to write this book. He is a keeper of Covenant.

INTRODUCTION

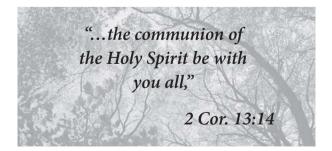
The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit; The Holy Ghost; The Spirit of God is the third person of the Trinity. There is so much to learn about the Holy Spirit, though He is often misunderstood, and seen as a distant and mysterious person of the God-Head (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

The Holy Spirit: Breath of God.

The first move of the Spirit can be seen in Creation as the breath of God. As the Spirit of God hovered over the waters, God spoke and things were formed. We see the elements of all creation in subjection and obedience to the One who created it.

You may have observed at some point in your life, the closing of prayer with these words,



It is an earnest prayer for God's divine presence. All who desire true communion with the Holy Spirit, say this prayer.

David's greatest fear was not the hot pursuit of his enemies, but the loss of the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:8). You see, the Holy Spirit is a person. The Psalms give a close up example of what it means to have the Holy Spirit as a personal friend.

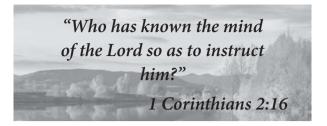
The Work of the Spirit can be seen in His role as the Helper, who abides with us forever and the Spirit of Truth, who dwells within us (John 14:15-18). When Jesus was about to depart from earth, He knew the disciples would be anxious and troubled. Jesus assured them, as He assures all who believe in Him today, that He is with us always.

The disciples were consoled with the promise of the "Paraclete." The Paraclete, which means Comforter in Greek, is God's special gift to us on earth. The Spirit abides with us as a Comforter and Friend. In Latin, the word comforter is communicated as "advocatus," which means an advocate. According to what Christ promised, His followers are consoled with the permanent presence of His Spirit with them. They are not alone.

The Holy Spirit can be said to be kind, compassionate, merciful, tender and understanding, but the Spirit of God cannot not be confined to these attributes. The Spirit of God also works as an invisible hand in the supernatural occurrences that take place on earth. He works in divine power, providence, divine wisdom, prophecy and revelation. The work of the Spirit is seen in Redemption.

The Spirit of God is a giver of gifts. These Gifts of the Spirit are not in any way confined to times past, as some believe. In the Old Testament, only chosen leaders like Moses and Joshua were gifted with the Spirit. With the onset of the New Testament Church, there was a significant change. The Spirit of God is poured out in a greater dimension, to all of God's people, beyond the New Testament Church, even today. **The Promise of the Spirit** has not been revoked (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17,18).

The Work of the Holy Spirit is to give us New Life. God's Wisdom is revealed by His Spirit. This Wisdom of God is a mystery, and insight into God's mind can only be given by the Spirit of God. It is by the Spirit of God that we understand spiritual realities, the things that the natural mind can never comprehend or understand.



It is The Holy Spirit who works in us so that we have the mind of Christ.

As the Bible says, just like no one can tell which way the wind will blow, no one can fully understand the ways of the Spirit.

PART ONE

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Creation.

Have you ever thought about where the Holy Spirit first appeared in the Bible? What did the Spirit do and what were His attributes? What were His functions and roles? There is a lot to think about.

The Breath of God.

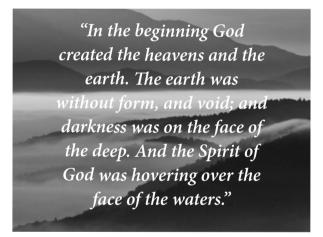
The first evidence of what is described as the "Holy Spirit" in the Bible is documented in Genesis 1:2.

"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Genesis 1:2

The Spirit of God, also known as, "The Breath of God," is expressed as lingering and spreading, like

mist, rapidly over the surface of the earth. We can feel the power of God in this text. Imagine wind, a storm; the gust of air; energy; power and life in motion. This force of movement, otherwise known as the breath of God," is called "**rûach**" in Hebrew and "**pneuma**" in Greek.

The Spirit of God is first of all seen in Creation. This account of creation is narrated, beautifully, in Genesis 1 and 2:

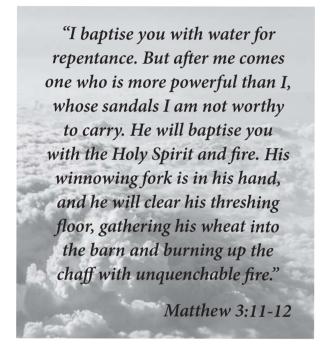


When we think about the Breath of God, we need to think about air in authoritative movement. Consider how this air, the Breath of Life, was breathed out from the mouth of God and how it dispersed and spread out, with unlimited movement, over the face of the earth. This is energy, wind, the gust of air, all coming from a powerful source.

PART TWO

The Work of the Spirit in Baptism.

John the Baptist gave witness and pointed to the mantle upon Jesus when he said,



John the Baptist's description of the coming Messiah gave the gathering crowds insight into the nature of the Messiah. John the Baptist made it clear that Jesus would have a higher call and would baptise with the Holy Spirit and Fire. John the Baptist spoke prophetically about the work Jesus would do: the eschatological promise found in Isaiah 61:1-2. John used figures of speech in Matthew 3, "the winnowing fork" and the "threshing floor" the "wheat and the chaff," pointing to the safety of those who would believe in Jesus Christ and the end of those who would not.

The Work of the Spirit in Prayer.

Luke 3:21-22

It is notable that while Jesus was praying, the Heavens opened.

It was a miraculous sign, the Spirit of God came down in bodily form and God spoke. This should motivate and assure every Christian that God's power is present whenever they pray. It was a clear sign of God's palpable presence. Even though Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit, we still see the supernatural, the Spirit of God descending on Him in a new way. It was like a special anointing and empowerment for the work He was about to embark on. It was the sign of His Messianic Ministry. The Spirit descended, the Father spoke, the Son received grace, power and anointing. It was a manifestation of the God-Head, all three in One. It was a divine announcement to the invisible realm and the world.

The work of God cannot be done on this earth without the power of God. There is a special grace that falls upon men and women who carry out God's work. Whether in the form of prophetic gifts, serving, teaching, leadership or showing acts of mercy, none of these can be done without grace and the Spirit of God.

The Work of the Spirit in Spiritual Power Over Sin.

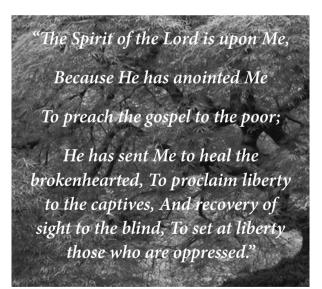
The Messianic anointing upon Jesus did not stop the devil from tempting Him in the wilderness. Jesus did not yield to this temptation. The Spirit of Truth, which is the Word of Truth dwells within God's people to fight against the wiles of the wicked one.

The Sword of the Spirit described in Ephesians 6:17 is part of the spiritual armour the Christian wears. The Spirit of God empowers the Christian to use this spiritual sword when it is needed. The guidance of the Helper and the power to yield to the promptings of the Spirit, when being tempted, is the privilege of those in Christ. In the place of prayer, before God's throne of grace, there is spiritual power over sin. In these final days, as the Church marches on, it will be by yielding to the Spirit that it will triumph. It will not succumb to the order of this world. God's people must believe they have the power to overcome the power of the evil one. The victory and triumph has already been won.

The Work of the Spirit in the Ministry of Jesus.

Luke 4:14 describes how Jesus returned to Galilee "in the power of the Holy Spirit." ESV. Jesus was passionate about setting captives free. The messianic anointing enabled Him to preach and move about with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were controlled by the devil. He was triumphant over the power of satan, because The Spirit of Lord was with Him.

Jesus spoke about Himself in Luke 4:18. It was the fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah,



The Work of the Spirit in Spiritual Gifts.

The Promise of the Spirit was not a temporary promise, like something that would be given and then unceremoniously taken away. Evidence of what the Spirit would do, was given by the Prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 36:27. Here, God promised the indwelling of His Spirit, a union that would cause obedience to His decrees. The promise of the Spirit would be received by faith. The fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham was that: through his seed, all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

Everything Jesus said about Himself came to pass. Everything written about Him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms would be fulfilled.

Luke's Perspective on Spiritual Gifts.

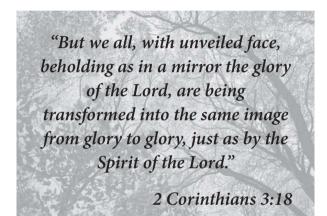
As Jesus taught the disciples, their minds were opened to understand the scriptures. It was only when the disciples were filled with the teaching of Christ that they were released into Ministry and "clothed with power from on high" - Luke 24:49.

It is the Work of the Holy Spirit to firstly draw the individual to the Word of God. It is the Holy Spirit who then gives revelation, He teaches a new way and gives new life.

It must be clear that Luke's account on spiritual gifts differ from Paul's account on Spiritual gifts. Luke was trained personally by Jesus Christ, while Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

While the disciples were taught directly by Jesus Christ, Paul relied on direct revelation by the Holy Spirit. We must understand that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit work as one. Throughout Jesus time on earth, we see His role and the role of the Holy Spirit intertwined. Before Jesus departed, He promised the disciples that be left without a helper. This promise extends to every Christian as I speak today.

In the Old Testament, only chosen leaders like Moses carried the mantle of God's Spirit upon them. Only certain people had the evidence of the workings of the Holy Spirit. Now, according to the fulfilment of scripture, the Spirit is with all who believe. It is a guarantee (2 Cor.1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:14). It is promised by God, that the Spirit of God will work with all God's people and not just a select few:



In this dispensation, according to what the Bible says, the Spirit of God will help the Child of God make decisions and choices in line with His will. The work of the Spirit is to bring God's children into perfect Union with the Father.

The diverse gifts within the body of Christ will be used in a variety of ways for the building up of the Church. God's people will preach the gospel to the entire world, they shall prophecy, speak in tongues, interpret visions and dreams. God's people shall give words of knowledge, pray for the sick and the testimony of the healed shall be proclaimed, bringing glory to God. They shall operate in the gifts of help and show mercy to others. In whatever capacity the Spirit gives these gifts, it shall be released for the building of the Church (Matthew 10:7; James 5:14).

The Work of the Spirit in Building the Church.

In these last days, God is raising up people who will be faithful and excellent in their calling. There are people who will be given a mantle to teach and preach the gospel. Their lives will be dedicated to this work, the building up the spiritual lives of many. God will use men and women, young and old, Jews and Gentiles alike to evangelise, preach and teach globally. They will fulfil The Great Commission:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Time is an invaluable commodity. There are people who will give of their time and energy willingly.

Among God's people will be people whose knowledge and expertise will be used to spread the

gospel in this digital age. Some will be writers, skilled men and women in the arts and sciences, others will be translators.

God's people with technical skills will build computer programmes and applications. They will be supernaturally filled with knowledge and wisdom for the sake of the gospel.

God's people, with the unique capacity to show mercy and kindness, will be the hands and feet of Jesus. These people will be given special grace to love the unlovely, help the lost, take care of the sick, show empathy and hospitality towards others. Some will be peace-makers, reconciling families and nations.

There are others who will be financially prosperous for the sake of the Kingdom. God will give them the ability and financial wisdom to support the Kingdom. These are men and women who may not necessarily have the time to preach the gospel, write books or build computer programmes, but will give of their wealth, to ensure the gospel is preached and the work of God continues.

God's people will be men and women of influence. These are door openers, who are well connected and know people in authority. They will use their influence to push the gospel forward. God's people will be helpers within the Church, supporting Leaders and Pastors in ministry. The physical maintenance of the building: painting; electrical; plumbing works will be done by the people of God.

This the work of the Spirit in these last days.

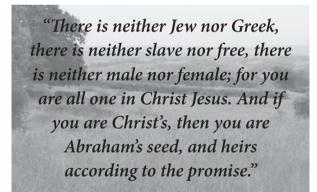
Whoever desires the gifts of the Spirit in these last days shall receive it. (1 Corinthians 7:7; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6-8).

Spiritual gifts will be given to all who believe in Christ; to all who will walk in obedience to Him; to all who devote their lives to Him. The power of God will rest upon them. God will pour out His Spirit of wisdom, insight and knowledge upon them. Peter summed it up in (Romans 8:28-34). There are a people, God's people, who have been chosen, even before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless and set apart for God's glory. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

The Work of the Spirit is Intergenerational.

It is clear from scripture, that God's plan and promise for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, is an inter-generational promise. It is part and parcel of God's Covenant blessing through Christ, for this present day.

God's Promise, according to Joel's prophecy of old (Joel 2:28-29), is the same word of promise spoken by Peter in Acts 2:17. The Spirit of God will be poured out upon on "**all flesh**." Not just the Jewish nation, but all nations. Galatians 3:8 says,



Why is Abraham regarded as the father of all people and all nations? (Genesis 12:1-3, 17:1-8, 18:19, 22:1-18, 26:4, 28:13-14).

The promise of a "seed," the Messiah, would come

through Abraham's son Isaac. Sarah gave birth to Isaac, but Abraham received the **Messiah**, Jesus Christ, only by Faith. Abraham did not doubt that God's word would come to pass, even though the Messiah did not come during Abraham's lifetime.

The promise of spiritual seed, men and women of faith, would come to pass after Abraham died. God acknowledged Abraham for his faith and called him righteous. Indeed, Abraham is the father of all peoples, whether, Jew or Gentile. They are also inheritors of the Abrahamic eschatological promises.

Regardless of the country you come from, the language you speak, your social status, male or female, young or old: all who believe in Christ, are the children of promise.

If you think about this deeply, you will understand why Abraham is called the "father of the faithful." If you contemplate it, you will also realise how much faith means to God.

God views faith in Christ, as right standing before Him. The fact that a person comes to faith in God, is by grace alone. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

God's Spirit poured out on all Flesh.

Acts 2:17

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams."

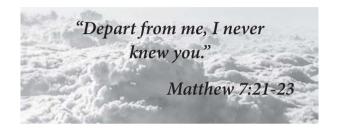
God's Spirit will be poured out on "all flesh."

In times past, only a select few walked with the wisdom, power and the authority of God. A good example is Moses. Moses had a mantle that distinguished him from every other person in Israel. It was a mantle of power, wisdom and authority. Whatever he said was received as the voice of God. It distinguished Moses and set him apart from the people. Moses was God's voice on the earth. It was only Moses who went into God's presence to receive instructions on behalf of the people. Moses and the children of Israel lived by the Ceremonial Law, making yearly sacrifices, with constant ceremonies and ordinances. With all the yearly

sacrifices, it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to permanently take away the sins of the people. Christ has given us a better Covenant, allowing all of God's people, not just one person, to enter boldly, before God's throne of grace. In Christ, we have a Covenant of Grace, He takes away our sins, once and for all!

CONCLUSION

The cry of every sincere Christian, should be to do God's will. To hear the finality of these fateful words on the last day would be horrendous:



The power to cast out demons, speak in tongues, heal the sick, preach spectacular sermons, prophecy, give great words of wisdom and insight, does not equate to knowing God. A person could spend their lifetime engaged in, "serving God," without ever knowing God. Until the mind is renewed, it will insist on going its own way and doing what it thinks is right. Even when the mind is convinced that is does good, it doesn't, because Romans 3:23 says:



Whatever a person does in their own strength and understanding, "falls short" according to God. This is why it is important to work in harmony, i.e. work together, with the Spirit of God. It is the Work of the Spirit to make sure God's work on earth is done. The fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden ruined the life of every human being. Whoever acknowledges their sinful nature and recognises they are prone to do wrong, understands their guilty conscience before God. By the Spirit of God, they come to know God, and repent of their sins.

The Resisting of the Spirit.

A great collision takes place when the Holy Spirit is resisted. Stubborn hearts and stubborn wills hinder the plan and purpose of God.

By replacing God's ideas with personal ideologies, people are led astray. Strange concepts and ideas will become the overpowering force of the mind that is set in its own ways.

The Bible gives us many examples of people who refused to listen God. They refused to let go of their own desires and will. The one thing that greatly hinders the Work of Spirit of God, is the self–will of man.

The Work of the Spirit in the New Man.

Until you are mature in the faith, you may not understand the teaching about the New Man. If you have not been a Christian for long or are a seeker, reading about the Work of the Holy Spirit, pray the Holy Spirit give you insight.

The closer you are to God, the more you will desire to do His will. The Work of the Spirit, is demonstrated in a person's desire to give up their self-will, in exchange for God's will. The renewed mind will no longer desire to live by the world's standards.

Galatians 6:14 says,

"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

The NLT version says,

"As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul had to speak out against the religious leaders who were placing burdens and yokes upon people in the Galatian Church. They were keen to make a show of their religious practices publicly, so people would admire them and respect them as being holy. However, this was far from the truth, because it was all about creating an outward impression. It was an exhibition of falsehood.

These false teachers in Galatia wanted the new converts to be circumcised, just so that they could boast about having converted them to their own version of Christianity, which was a combination of the Ceremonial Law and Faith in Christ. Keeping up appearances was more important than embracing the Truth. The actions of these hypocrites had nothing to do with holiness or righteousness. Doing what was right and just in the eyes of God, was not important.

The actions of these religious people were self motivated. They acted selfishly for personal gain. It was about magnifying their influence. It was an act of injustice because these false teachers, went as far as saying that circumcision was necessary for Salvation. They were asking people to become circumcised and go through so much pain, knowing they or their family members, would never go through the same pain themselves. Scripture warns us to beware of religious men and women who inflict others with burdens they will never carry themselves.

The Work of the Spirit in Renewing the Mind.

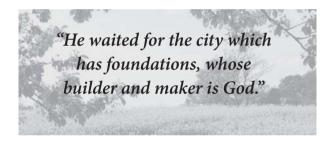
Again, talking about the Galatian Church, Paul was more concerned about the renewal of the mind, than any false religious practices.

The desire for worldly, riches, fame and honour will stand in competition to the desires of the Spirit of God. A change of heart in obedience towards God, is a reflection of the renewed mind. The desires of the flesh will always be at war with the desires of the Spirit, but through prayer and devotion to God, the battle can be won.

The Spirit of God works within to bring about a change of heart. The Spirit of God enables one to make choices and decisions in line with God's will. The Spirit of Sonship, the relationship between God's Children and God, is brought about by the Spirit of God.

The Work of the Spirit in our Spiritual view of Heaven.

Abraham lived as a sojourner, a pilgrim, a traveller on this earth. He had no permanent residence. He moved from place to place by the instruction, guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. Abraham looked forward to that permanent place of abode, a better place than earth. He looked forward to an eternal home, with eternal foundations. Hebrews 11:10 says,



Every one who understands the temporary existence of life here on earth, looks forward to this permanent home. Entry into this promised home is through Christ alone.

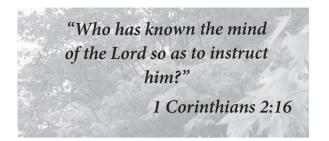
Just like Abraham, the Believer in Christ is a pilgrim on this earth, just passing through, with no fixed place of abode. The Christian lives with eyes fixed on Heaven. The pilgrim lives in great expectation of the life to come. Nothing on this earth should compare to this great expectation, nothing should stand in its way. The sojourner looks forward to an expected end. The temporary pleasures of life do not have a hold on the person on a journey towards Heaven.

To live with an obscured view of Heaven can be compared to walking around all day with sunglasses on. People wear sunglasses to block out the light, and to block out the light of Heaven, is to look into utter darkness. It is deception in itself.

Earth is a temporary place and this is deeply embedded in the minds of those whose hearts are set on Heaven.

Remember Abraham. He received the eternal promise of Heaven by faith. The sojourner also embarks on the journey to the promised land by faith. You don't need faith to see what is right in front of you. You need faith to see what is unseen. Heaven can only be grasped through the eyes of faith.

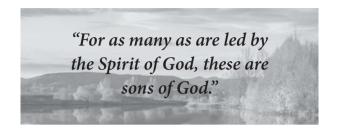
The Work of the Spirit is to take us by the hand and lead us in the right way. Without the help of the Spirit, the child of God will surely go the wrong way. Psalm 109:105 says,



The list is endless of the means through which the enemy is set out to distract and derail those on their way to Heaven. The good news is that all whose hands are firmly placed in the hand of God; all who trust in God, shall be led in the right way. Even when they stumble fall, they shall be dusted off and set on the right path. This is worth shouting about.

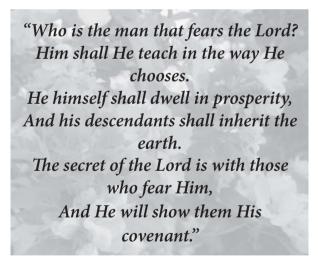
Obedience to the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:14



God's people will be led by the Spirit of God. Anyone led by the Spirit of God, walks in **obedience to the Spirit of God**.

Psalm 25:12-14



In these last days, there will be a people who will walk in obedience to God's will and walk in His ways. (Isaiah 44:24 Jeremiah 1:5). The Word of God will be written on their hearts, and not on tablets of stone, that can be broken. The most unusual and unsuspecting people will be used by God. The broken, the rejected, the abused and used. A people who the society will deem unfit to move in such wisdom, power and anointing, will put to shame the wise and mighty.

God's chosen people will not depend on the platforms of others to do what God has called them to do, because the solid foundation of God's Word will be their platform. God will be the One, to equip and commission them, **by His Spirit.**

God has given us the power to live according to His will, by His Spirit. The mantle of grace that rests upon the shoulders of those who trust in God will be their motivation. They will have the power to do God's will. These are God's chosen people who will operate by the Spirit of God.

God has not stopped consecrating people from the womb. Moses did not understand His purpose until he was separated from His past and set apart in the wilderness. It was through his wilderness experience that he grew up spiritually. In this day, not just the one, but many, will be called and chosen, by God's grace, to go through their own wilderness experience and become spiritually mature citizens of God's Kingdom. God will bring them into the position where they desire God's will more than anything else. The whole earth is at God's disposal and God will use the instrument of His choice to get His children to fulfil their destiny. To be made ready for any calling in this life, takes years of training and preparation. God prepares people for His service by His Spirit. This includes the training of the mind. It is God who gives wisdom and creates an arena for what needs to be learnt, for the fulfilment of destiny. The Work of the Spirit is to help men and women understand God's will.

God's Spirit is alive and manifest today. The Work of the Holy Spirit would be incomplete if it was limited to the Old Testament and New Testament Church.

I pray today that you will grow in grace and the knowledge of God. May you be dead to this world and its concepts, through your blessed union with Christ. Amen.

Ruth Dickson

The Work of the Holy Spirit: His Power, Presence and Relevance todav

About Book:

God's strength is made perfect in your weakness. Isn't it a comfort to know you have a steady hand leading you, onward and upward, through your journey on this earth. Remember, your time here is temporary and you have something better, a glorious place to look forward to... a city that has not been built with human hands.

This book will sharpen your spiritual eyes so that you can see the person of the Holy Spirit more clearly. The Holy Spirit is often silent and working behind the scenes in every aspect of your life. It is the Work of the Holy Spirit to prepare, equip and commission you for His work. The central Work of the Holy Spirit, is to bring you into Union with Christ.

Ruth Dickson

Ruth has dedicated her life to service in God's Kingdom. Heavenly Treasures Ministries and Gihon Publishing are her ministries. Some of her notable books include: Humility: the Neglected Key, Rahab: saved by Grace, A Seven week Study on the Book of Ruth, and her daily devotional, Oil for the Journey, available in three volumes.

Many of her books are in other languages: Filipino, Mandarin, German, Russian Dutch, Arabic, Hausa, Ssetswana, Kinyarwanda, Kurundi, Igbo and Swahili. You can find out more by visiting her

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