

His Power Toward Us

The Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, was the first time anyone had ever received the new birth spirit – or in other words, was born-again. Acts 2:1 – 4 records that initial outpouring of the gift of holy spirit from the Giver, God. Prior to that event, the new birth was simply not available. Jesus Christ came to fulfill all of the requirements that would make it available, but until he did that, to be born-again was not possible. All through the Old Testament and the Gospels, nobody had ever received the gift of holy spirit, the new birth.

However, in the Old Testament and in the Gospels, God could and did place spirit upon certain individuals for certain times and for certain tasks. We use this phrase “spirit upon” to indicate that this was conditional and temporary. It was not the new birth, but it was holy spirit. This was not eternal life or incorruptible seed. Rather, it was something that could be taken away or lost. When we use this phrase “spirit upon”, it does not mean that the spirit was perched on their shoulder like a parrot on the shoulder of a pirate. It was still spirit throughout their bodies. God could still give information to that spirit and the spirit got the information to their minds just as we have discussed in previous teachings.

This “spirit upon” did not carry with it the full range of rights, privileges and abilities that come with the new birth. It was not the new birth. This “spirit upon” did however allow that individual to receive information and instructions about specific situations from God (via the revelation manifestations) and it did allow that individual to utilize that information and instructions to get God’s desired result in that specific situation (via the impartation manifestations).

So, with that introduction, I would like to go with you to an Old Testament record that will contain some beneficial learning and understanding for us.

II Kings 6:8

For this war, the king of Syria took counsel with his servants. These were not his housecleaners or his butler. This was his cabinet, his joint chiefs of staff.

Together they would plan out the strategy and tactics for the upcoming battles. It

would of course be assumed that these plans were top-secret, classified information.

II Kings 6:9, 10

There are plenty of promises to the nation of Israel in the written Word about God's care for them, His protection for them, His care for their well-being. But now this is a specific situation and specific information is needed. That is where the revelation manifestations are needed. There was no way that the man of God could have been privy to the top-secret, classified war plans of Syria – but God was able to get that information to him. Revelation is information about any situation that you cannot know via your five senses. It comes from God to your spirit and then to your mind. And the man of God didn't keep it to himself, he passed it on to the king of Israel, who then was able to take the appropriate actions. This is an example of how God, via the revelation manifestations, can keep His people one step ahead of the enemy's attacks. Even in the Old Testament, the manifestations of the spirit are for profit.

II Kings 6:11 – 14

Quite naturally, the king of Syria concludes that he has a spy, a double-agent in the ranks of his servants. When he finds out that it is Elisha the prophet who was giving the information to the king of Israel, he decides that they have to take Elisha out of the picture if they are going to have success in this war. So, he sends out a great host, horses and chariots at night under cover of darkness and they surround the city where Elisha is. He won't be able to sneak out and get away.

II Kings 6:15 – 17

The servant of the man of God sees this great host with horses and chariots surrounding the city and he is understandably concerned. Elisha's answer to him is very instructive. "Fear not", but Elisha doesn't just leave it there. He doesn't just say "fear not", he gives him a reason that he can have no fear. When Elisha prays that God will "open his eyes that he may see", he isn't referring to just the man's physical eyes. This man could see the physical evidence very clearly. God gave him some spiritual eyesight so that he could see God's "protection detail" around Elisha. It was this enlightened understanding that allowed the servant to have no fear. We will come back to this passage to finish the record of Elisha and

his servant, but first let us go to Ephesians to read something that is written TO us in the Church.

Ephesians 1:15 – 23; 2:1

This is the first prayer in Ephesians. In verse 15, one person translated this as “spiritual wisdom and revelation knowledge”. That is what gives us enlightened understanding.

We need enlightened understanding if we want to know the hope of his calling. (That is outside the scope of this teaching).

We need enlightened understanding if we want to know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. (Which is also outside the scope of this teaching).

And we need enlightened understanding if we want to know the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe. That is what the servant of the man of God needed – enlightened understanding so that he could see and know God’s power and deliverance.

I am sure all of us have been in situations that seemed desperate just like Elisha and his servant. There can be times when it may seem like the adversary has you surrounded with no way out. That is when you need to have the eyes of your understanding enlightened by spiritual wisdom and revelation knowledge so that you can know the exceeding greatness of his power towards you.

Incidentally, the rest of chapter one beginning with the words “according as” should be enclosed in parentheses. A parenthesis is a figure of speech, an addition by way of explanation that is not strictly needed for the thought content of the passage. So, one could read from “his power to usward who believe...And (even) you” in chapter 2:1. Sometimes we really need spiritual wisdom and revelation knowledge to enlighten our understanding in order to see God’s power in situations. Let’s go back to II Kings now and read the rest of the record.

II Kings 6:17 – 23

Here we see not only the revelation manifestations involved, but also the impartation manifestations. Elisha asks God to put the blindfolds on this great host so he can lead them to the capital city, Samaria. Once there, Elisha asks God to take the blindfolds off. The subsequent words and actions of Elisha can be

attributed to the information and instructions he received from God and again we can see the profit.