

Not Alone (The Holy Spirit)

In our last session, we had focused on the New Creation in Christ Jesus. We paid special attention to what it means to be brand new and how we come into that new state. One of the scriptures that is most paramount in that regard is 2 Corinthians 5:17 which states that “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone; the new is here (Now).” Furthermore, we discussed the ordinance of Baptism, stating that it is a public declaration of an inward reality. It makes plain a bit dramatically what God had wrought in us in the person of His Son which resulted in the new creation. Also, we compared the Baptism with the Stones of Remembrance in Joshua 3:17 & 4:1-9; bringing to focus that our old selves are dead and buried as the stones which are yet in the depth of the Jordan until this day.

Today, we would like to move a bit further and trust the Lord to fill us with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

One of the greatest fears of new believers and God’s people in general is the fear of failure. Although our spirits have been made alive, our souls and bodies remain the same for now. I say for now, because it is also God’s ultimate desire that they too be delivered from the influence of the sin nature. The mind is to be delivered through renewal /reprogramming in God’s Word as clearly stated in Romans 12:2 (NLT) “Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” The deliverance of the body would be at His second coming, when death shall truly be subdued with regards to its influence upon our bodies.

Now as a result of this fear of failure or the fear of being a hypocrite as some may say, we often dread the life that follows after our public confession of Faith. Fear is not really a bad thing if it forces us to realize our inability and compels us to reach out to God who is our all sufficiency.

In the old testament, as the mantle of leadership was being passed from Moses, Israel’s great leader, to Joshua in the midst of the possible fears of the unknown and failure, the resounding words of encouragement given to Joshua was, “Be strong and courageous, Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you, He will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

How wonderful is that! Those are the very exact words that God is speaking into your heart as you are listening to me now. “God will not leave you nor forsake you.” Those words truly excite me and should most certainly excite you as well.

The Lord Jesus, in the days of His flesh, made the same definite statement to his disciples as recorded in the gospel according to John.

John 14:18 & 26 “I will not leave you like orphans (desolate), but I will come to you.”

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 16:13-15

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

If I am permitted to paraphrase these verses and condense them, I will say that, “He will take of me and make it real in you.”

The Lord knows certainly that we are incapable of living this new life on our own and so the Holy Spirit has come to lead us through the process of this life and into God’s end.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is the third manifestation of the invisible God. I have chosen to use the term manifestation instead of the term “person” to denote that He is really The Very God in a different form. God manifested Himself in Fatherhood with regards to creation and the pre-redemption era. For the purpose of the redemption, He was made manifest to us as Emmanuel, God tabernacled in flesh. The apostle John stated in John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son”. Now He has manifested Himself to us as the Spirit of son-ship to facilitate the formation of Christ in us.

Why is He Here?

He is here primarily with one mandate; to make the Lord Jesus a living reality in our lives (that is, to bring us into conformity to the very image of the Son – to make us like Jesus in nature; not divinity, but character). I know that there are some religious sects out there that teach that humanity’s end is divinity, to become gods; that is not what I am talking about. Such ideology is neither scriptural nor God’s idea. God’s thought is that we become partakers of His divine nature (character) 2 Peter 1:2-4.

In Romans 8:29, the Apostle Paul makes it clear via the revelation of Jesus that God has chosen His people to become like His Son.

How does He bring this to pass?

He is able to do this through the process of transformation or transfiguration. This take **TIME**, it is not instantaneous and it is a task that the Holy Spirit brings about in us through our very close cooperation with Him.

What are the Instruments of this Transfiguration?

1. The Word of God (The Bible)
2. Prayer

The Word of God (The Bible)

As a Christian, God's word must be an absolutely vital part of our lives. It is in the Word, (The Bible), that God's mind is primarily revealed to us. Through it, we are better able to know the nature of God – His heart, His likes/ dislikes; the kind of things that makes for a healthy fruitful relationship. Psalm 119: 11; "I have hidden your word in my heart that I will not sin against you." Deuteronomy 8:3 admonishes us that Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Prayer

As important as God's word is, it is not enough to bring about the lasting change that is necessary. We must always remember that this transformation is not something that could be accomplished by our own will power. It is not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit of God.

Prayer is communicating with God. It is an avenue that God has made available to His people primarily for communication. Prayer and the word of God must go hand in hand to have a perfect dialogue. God speaks to us through His word, and we respond through prayer.

With regards to the process of transformation, we are going to look a bit closer to see how the Word and prayer work together as God's instruments in this process.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

"But just don't listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it."

James 3:18 (NASB)

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the LORD, are being transformed into the same image from glory unto glory, just as from the LORD the Spirit."

Earlier, I mentioned that this process of transformation comes about through a partnership with the Holy Spirit; a cooperation. As we sincerely spend time in God's word, we are able to see what God expects as well as the nature and character of Christ. After seeing this, we are able to see how we fall short. When we have seen our shortcomings, we take it up to the Lord in the place of prayer and ask Him to close the gap; to make that which His word says should be in us a living reality in us. When we have done this, the Lord comes by His Holy Spirit to WORK this into us. This is not a magic wand; the Holy Spirit introduces the CROSS (an opportunity of

death and resurrection), Death to our own way and our human inclinations by taking a stand with God; No to self and Yes to God. This is how we come to the place of victory, one step at a time. This process continues throughout our daily lives and so makes us more and more like the Son of God – The one who totally and thoroughly pleases the Father.

Ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit now and you will find in Him the power to become all that God has purposed for you to be in His Son.

NOTES (Not Alone)

❖ The Holy Spirit has come to make me like Jesus in character.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

2. What does He do in my life?

3. How does the Holy Spirit transform my life with:

i. God’s Word (The Bible)?

ii. Prayer?
