

## FOCUS – FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

- We must hear Jesus and we must see Jesus. We must keep the focus of our hearts on Him. That's because hearing Jesus and seeing Jesus and focusing on Jesus builds up our faith, and faith is the antidote to fear.

It's all  
about



**FOCUS**

- I think we share some common desires. I don't know about you but I find myself wishing sometimes even longing
  - to be closer to God
  - To be more loving
  - To have more faith
  - To handle temptation with greater strength
- FOCUS
  - I want you to think about when you first came to Christ - Focus
  - You were baptized - Focus
  - You heard about and or will filled with the Holy Spirit - Focus
  - Had a significant encounter with Jesus - Focus
- All of these were things, or events that helped keep us FOCUSED or having a sense of being close or closer to Jesus! **But what about our day to day walk with Jesus?**

## What makes us feel close?

**It doesn't just happen.**

Have you ever asked your spouse, children or friends what helps them to feel close to you?

**Do you know that Jesus wanted us to feel close to Him?**

John 14:15-27 "If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you. 16 I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another **Friend so that you will always have someone with you.** 17 This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can't take him in because it doesn't have eyes to see him, doesn't know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you! 18 "I will not leave you orphaned. I'm coming back. 19 In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you're going to see me because I am alive and you're about to come alive. 20 At that moment you will know absolutely that I'm in my Father, and you're in me, and I'm in you.

- 21 "The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that's who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said, "Master, why is it that you are about to make yourself plain to us but not to the world?" 23 "Because a loveless world," said Jesus, "is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him — we'll move right into the neighbourhood! 24 Not loving me means not keeping my words. The message you are hearing isn't mine. It's the message of the Father who sent me.
- 25 "I'm telling you these things while I'm still living with you. 26 **The Friend, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will make everything plain to you. He will remind you of all the things I have told you.** 27 I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. **Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left — feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.** MSG
- What about this friend? The Holy Spirit!

- When the Spirit is mentioned, when He is involved, its often accompanied by action or activity! The other significant thing is He nearly always stirs up words.
  - The very 1<sup>st</sup> mention of the Spirit and the very first recorded words of God in scripture – anyone remember them? Pause – Let there be light. (Genesis 1:3)
  - Numbers 11 the Spirit rests upon the elders and they prophesied. Scripture doesn't tell us what they said but the spirit on them produced words! Unusual outside of the normal.
  - 1 Sam 10:6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man. NASB
  - 1 Sam 10:6-7 Before you know it, the Spirit of God will come on you and you'll be prophesying right along with them. And you'll be transformed. You'll be a new person! 7 "When these confirming signs are accomplished, you'll know that you're ready: Whatever job you're given to do, do it. God is with you! THE MESSAGE
    - enables us to do what is totally beyond our capacity to do
    - to be beyond our capacity to be
    - to say beyond our capacity to say
- To do. to be and to say what is totally beyond the reach of our ability.
- Abnormal, not normal.

- When the Spirit of God came upon the authors of scripture they invariably spoke out, sang out, and of course wrote down words.
- When the spirit of God came on Mary and Elizabeth they were full of words. Mary sings out with a heart full of wonder and passion. My soul does magnify the lord (Luke 1:39-56)
- Then we come to Jesus and His baptism. Interesting too isn't it that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and he was born of the Spirit. He was born of the Spirit sinless yet he still needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit before he could become and do all that the father wanted him to become and do. And as the Spirit of God rests on Him at baptism there are words, this time words from heaven "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." Matthew 3:17, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22.
- Think about the entire book of Acts

- Back to our beginning.
  - We must hear Jesus and we must see Jesus. We must keep the focus of our hearts on Him. That's because hearing Jesus and seeing Jesus and focusing on Jesus builds up our faith, and faith is the antidote to fear.
  - We want to be closer to God, To be more loving, To have more faith, To handle temptation with greater strength
  - Most Christians when pressed usually want more of the Holy Spirit or the presence of God
  - Most Christians want to see more of the supernatural
  - Most Christians are desperate to see more people coming to salvation – coming to Christ
  - We want more!!

- Imagine, wondering, waiting, trying to be obedient, waiting and wondering; On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Act 2:1-4
- A few minutes later with tongues fresh in his mind and quite possibly with a flame still burning on his head, Peter quotes the famous passage;
  - *Joel 2:28-32 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. ESV*

- I think there in that moment a simple and practical truth was unlocked by apostle Peter; The promise is the spirit poured out on all flesh and the here's the reality.
  - We cannot move in a gift of the spirit without the power the presence and the outcome of the spirit.
  - You and I cannot operate in a gift of the Spirit without the spirit being manifested.
  - What this scripture describes is a **partnership between** the promised outpouring of **the Holy Spirit and our response.**
- These scriptures focus on prophecy visions and dreams but what about the one spiritual gift that we are told is available to everyone.
- It is the only gift that is for our own good. All the other spiritual gifts we find in scripture are there for others. But this first one is becoming less and less prominent in our churches.

The **Forgotten Gift** is the gift of tongues. **WORDS :**

- The gift of tongues - was the first response from the disciples in Acts 2 when they were filled with the spirit.
- In the New Testament often when people were converted to follow Jesus, especially it seems when they were baptized, the Spirit would come on them and they would speak in tongues.

**What is tongues?** Strong's #1100: **glossa** (pronounced gloce-sah'). of uncertain affinity; the tongue; by implication, a **language** (specially, one naturally unacquired):-- tongue.

- *The ability to speak to God in a language you don't know and have never learned*
- ***They spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance the paradox we choose He enables***

- ***Who is it for?***

- Mark 16:15-18 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." ESV
- I Corinthians 14:5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, ESV

- **What is “speaking in tongues”?**

- Speaking or praying in tongues is a form of prayer in *which the* Christian yields himself to the Holy Spirit and receives from the Spirit a supernatural language *with* which to praise God. It is a miraculous manifestation of God's power, **but one which combines both human and divine elements that expresses both human and divine initiative. It is truly a cooperative effort between the Christian and the Holy Spirit.** ( A Handbook On Holy Spirit Baptism)

- Many people misunderstand what takes place when they hear someone praying or speaking in tongues. They are apprehensive over what might happen to them if they "let themselves go like that" or "let some other power take over." They assume the person is completely passive and that the Holy Spirit is doing it all. (HSB Book)
  - Lot of confusion and problems - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZbQBajYnEc>
- This is an erroneous impression of what is taking place. The person him-self is actively participating in the experience. As someone once put it, "**Without the Holy Spirit, you can't, but without you, the Holy Spirit won't.**" (HSB Book)
- **Simply stated, man does the speaking; the Holy Spirit furnishes the words. Acts 2:4 says, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as, the Spirit gave them utterance." A free translation might read, "they...began to speak as the Spirit gave them words to say." (HSB Book)**

- **Seven things The Bible says We Can Do With It**

- 1. We can speak
- 2. We can sing
- 3. We can utter mysteries
- 4. We can thank
- 5. We can praise
- 6. We can pray
- 7. We can do our warfare

- 1 Cor 14:2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he **utters mysteries in the Spirit**.

- 13 Therefore, one **who speaks** in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. 14 **For if I pray in a tongue**, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; **I will sing praise with my spirit**, but I will sing with my mind also. 16 Otherwise, **if you give thanks with your spirit**, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" **to your thanksgiving** when he does not know what you are saying? 17 For **you may be giving thanks well enough**, but the other person is not being built up. 18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. ESV

Ephesians 6:16-18 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. NLT

Jude 20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ESV



