

REDISCOVERING REAL POWER

by Jackson Morro

This will be the final chapter of a forthcoming book, JESUS THE LIBERATOR.

There is a quality decision that constantly faces the church of Jesus Christ and the individual Christian. It is a choice and a decision that is ever before us: Will the work of the church be done by means of human ingenuity, human planning and human cleverness – or will the work of the church be done by the Holy Spirit? If we choose the work to be done by the power of the Holy Spirit, are we, as the Body of Christ, willing to let God work on us and do the necessary changes in us, so the Holy Spirit can work through us? It's the power of God that changes things, not man's programs and plans.

The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of both the church and the individual Christian is so important, it's vital. One of the major purposes of Jesus' ministry was that He would be the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is so important, it's mentioned at the beginning of all four gospels and Acts. (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5,8)

Jesus told us in John 14:16,17, 26 that the Holy Spirit would be "another Comforter" who would be with us forever as the Spirit of Truth who would teach us all things about Jesus. Jesus also told us in John 16:7-14 that the Holy Spirit would be with us to guide us into all truth and glorify Jesus.

As Christians we are first introduced to the Holy Spirit when He draws us to God as we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ preached. The Holy Spirit convicts our hearts that we are sinners who need salvation and it is the Holy Spirit who produces true repentance and godly sorrow in us. When we accept Jesus as our Lord, we are then born again by the power of the Holy Spirit – our spiritually dead inner man is brought to life with God's very own life and the presence of the Risen Jesus is brought into our inner man. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ.

The work of the Holy Spirit continues after the new birth because secondly, the Holy Spirit is the One who sanctifies us (Romans 15:6) and

cleanses sin and habit out of our lives. God wants His people to grow in holiness and defeat the power of sin in our lives. The Holy Spirit shines the light of God's truth on us and exposes our sins and faults, never to condemn us, but always to cleanse us so that we can grow in faith and grow in the glory of God. If the church of Jesus Christ is to be a powerful church, it must be a church that cleanses itself of sin.

The third function of the Holy Spirit is to be our teacher who guides us into all truth (John 16:13). It is the Holy Spirit alone who can help us properly understand the Word of God. Although it is commendable to study the history and language of biblical times, we do not need, in reality, anything else except the Word of God and a heart that is open to the Holy Spirit. One can be an effective and powerful minister of the gospel even if they have never been to a Bible school or seminary, as long as they diligently read and study the Word of God and have a heart that is open to the leading and teaching of the Holy Spirit. Anyone in ministry has all they need if they have the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

Fourthly, the Holy Spirit empowers us. The work of God, the work of the church of Jesus Christ, must be done supernaturally, by the supply and action of the Holy Spirit. The work of the church cannot be achieved through the plans, agendas, cleverness or programs devised by man. Every work of eternal value in the Bible or in Church history through the centuries has only been done by the supernatural provision of the Holy Spirit. The constant quality decision which ever confronts the Body of Christ is the choice to try to do God's work by well-devised human plans and programs, OR by dependence upon the power and plan of the Holy Spirit. Also, when the Church does choose the Holy Spirit, we must be willing to pay the price necessary to be used by the Holy Spirit – we must die to our own self-assertive will, we must hunger for holiness and spiritual cleansing, and we must undergo a renewed love for prayer and worship.

If the Church wants the power of the Holy Spirit to be present, we must realize the Holy Spirit loves two things:

1. *The Holy Spirit loves Jesus.* The Holy Spirit knows the depths of Jesus' obedience and He knows the spiritual crushing that Jesus went through when the Holy Spirit had to leave Jesus as He suffered on the cross for our sins. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and is totally committed to exalting Jesus. When the Church lifts up and exalts Jesus in its praise music and in its preaching and teaching, the Holy Spirit will always show up. We must exalt Jesus. When we do, the Holy Spirit will be present in mighty power.

2. *The Holy Spirit loves the Word.* The Holy Spirit is the One who

organized and faithfully breathes life into words of the Bible. The Holy Spirit is the One who confirms the true preaching of the Word of God by the demonstration of signs and wonders which follow. When the church honors, proclaims, does not deviate from, and does not water down the Word of God, the Holy Spirit always shows up and manifests His power.

In the book of Acts, chapter 19, we see a man of God, the apostle Paul, who knew that the work of the church had to be done through the power of the Holy Spirit, not the cleverness of man's programs and ideas.

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and over-powered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

- Acts 19:11-20

We see here a great revival in the Greek city of Ephesus. People were healed; evil spirits were cast out of possessed people. These things were only accomplished by the Holy Spirit's power. When some Jewish exorcists tried to duplicate the word of God in their own human strength, they met with disaster.

We see the work of the Holy Spirit in verses 17 and 20. The name of Jesus was magnified and the Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. The Holy Spirit loves Jesus and loves the Word.

We even see that the Holy Spirit's power was so strong that many renounced the practice of magic and brought their occult books and

paraphernalia to the center of the city and burned them, probably hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of spiritual garbage.

The church must always remember that God's power is different from man's power: God's power is REAL and EFFECTIVE!

In all our good intentions, we fight the evils of our day – abortion, witchcraft, pornography, sexual perversion. We picket and protest and sign petitions, and so we should. But we have labored with only limited success. There is only one real hope – and one real answer – and that is Holy Ghost revival. The church must make a quality decision to seek the Holy Spirit's power and then be willing to pay the spiritual price to be a vessel the Holy Spirit can use.

When we, like Paul, rediscover real power, we will see abortionists repent and shut down their own clinics. We'll see our young people renounce Satan worship, Wicca, the occult, and drug addiction because the Holy Spirit will blast away the darkness and set them free. Pornographers will of their own accord shut down their filth factories even without being picketed and brought to court. Those who are into sexual immorality and abominable homosexual perversion will be set free and liberated through repentance given by the Holy Spirit.

But all this can only come through the rediscovery of real power—and the only answer and hope is Holy Ghost revival.