

The Holy Spirit + Ministry = Great Power 03-22-2007

By Denise Bostic

Our success or lack thereof in our personal lives and ministries depends upon our response to the Spirit of God. Our effectiveness is dependent on our obedience to the Holy Spirit and He will take us as far as we are willing to follow Him. In order to go where the Holy Spirit wants to take us, we must be able to hear His voice and submit to God's revealed will for our lives. This is the key to great and effective ministry. **Great** is the proportion to the size and scope of the work. **Effective** is to the extent that it reaches people. We must trust God to lead us into His will, plans and purposes.

The Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus and helps to continue His ongoing work and ministry in the earth. Past generations were responsible for their response to the call of Jesus. What will our response be today? (*Hebrews 3:7-10*) Will we respond to the call of the Holy Spirit and the work that Jesus has given us to do in this generation? Life is fleeting. We must work while it is still light. The Lord wants His Church's attention. We can only be effective as we follow Him. We must exemplify walking in the Spirit – in the fruit and power together. One without the other is unbalanced. If people only see God's fruit of the Spirit, it portrays God as weak. If people only see God's power, it portrays God as unloving and harsh. As God's chosen people, we have a responsibility to portray God in the proper way before the world.

God has been speaking to some saints for years. What are we doing with the knowledge that God has given us? We must follow through and effectively use what God has placed on our hearts. Each member of the body of Christ must support the other if we are to be fully operational and functional in the power of God. (*1 Corinthians 12: 12-27*) Leadership is responsible to cultivate that which God has put into the hearts of His people. (*Ephesians 4: 11-13*) For too long, many leaders have taught people that they are to look to, support and invest in their ministries as leaders. It is time that leadership heeds the word and call of the Holy Spirit and equips the saints for works of the ministry that God has placed within *them*. Their callings must be confirmed, cultivated, and released in order to come into fruition.

The ministry of the saints must be put into action if they are to reach the multitudes that God wants to reach. We need to follow through in obedience to the word whether written or words of prophecy. The whole body must work together in unity, one mind and one accord in order to be effective. Each vision and dream on the inside of each believer is to be incorporated into the work by the Church. These works are not opposed to one another but work together for the cause of Christ and His Kingdom. Each have different gifts but all come from the same source of the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 12: 4-11*) We must progress past the stage of only knowing that these gifts exist and on to how they are to be fully operational in the lives of believers, whether they are ministering within the Church or the world.

Every leader needs to follow God's plans and purposes for His Church, not ministry for their own selfish gain. This is not only for leaders, but also for all believers within the Church. We are here to promote Christ and His Kingdom on this earth. It is not just for leaders to reach people for the Kingdom of God but for the whole body of Christ as well. (*1 Corinthians 12*) Leaders are responsible for helping the saints along in their gifts and callings. Leaders, if we are not helping others along in these areas and are only concerned with our own ministries, we may want to

reexamine our motives in ministry. Jesus is our example. He invested Himself into His disciples so that they could carry on His work on earth in the Spirit that He intended. Jesus taught His disciples to rely upon the Holy Spirit. (John chapters 14 & 16) Since Jesus did this, how much more should we teach others reliance upon the Spirit?

The Church must be prepared for the next outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This outpouring is a prophetic word given to us by the prophets and we would do well to take heed to and prepare for it. We do not want to find ourselves unprepared for it when the time comes. We cannot be like the five foolish virgins who had no oil in their lamps. (Matthew 25:1-4) We will not know what to do automatically. Jesus prepared His disciples and we must be prepared also. (Acts 1: 1-3) Time and energy wisely invested will bring forth much fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Saints are not truly happy and full of joy unless they are walking in God's will and purpose for their lives. When we get in cooperation with God's will and purpose for our lives, we will see an increase in the things of the Spirit. When we are in sync with the Holy Spirit, there is a demonstration of His power because we move under God's authority. Every person in the body of Christ needs to understand the concept of the priesthood of all believers. (I Peter 2:9-10) When we understand this correctly, it breaks down the barriers of division that man has created with a clergy / laity split. As long as we stay divided as a body, we cannot function as the one nation of kings and priests that God has intended for us to be. This division has created a sense of superiority of some over others in the body of Christ. It gives the impression that some in the body are more important than others, which goes contrary to scripture. (I Corinthians 12: 12-25, I Corinthians 3:4-9)

Every member is important in God's Kingdom and is not to be devalued as insignificant. When we wake up to this fact and recognize one another as God recognizes us, we will truly have a great awakening. Until this split is repaired, we will not be able to fulfill all that God has called us to do as a complete and unified body of Christ. Until leadership recognizes all believers as ministers (priests) as well, we will not be the powerful and effective Church that we are meant to be. It is only when we humble ourselves before the Lord and admit our mistakes, weaknesses, failures and submit to His perfect will, that we will be able to be the glorious Church He intended.