



THE HOLY SPIRIT

All scripture is inspired by the Spirit of God, Only Him can help you understand it...

TOLULOPE OLUFOHUNSI

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1.

The Word and the Holy Spirit

“And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them, it is not given.” - Matthew 13:10-11

It took the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to write the word of God; it will take only the Holy Spirit to help you understand it. Several times, the Holy Spirit in His mercy has taught and given me understanding to several things in the word of God, and I'll start this short book by sharing the perspective He gave me to two different mysteries:

* * *

The parable of the ten virgins - Matthew 25: 1-13

Good morals are good but being a moralist by itself doesn't lead you to heaven.

The parable of the ten virgins is one that had me confused for a while. Why? People tend to miss this very tiny detail; they were all virgins! And in my heart, I'm like "Father, so these were all virgins which mean they were 'pure' - clean, undefiled - and yet five of the pure people

(not sinners) didn't get in with the groom. If being pure, having morals, not committing any obvious sin, etc. is not enough then what else?", then there usually is this awkward silence, and I imagine Him giving me that "what in My name is wrong with this boy" look but I was genuinely confused, and one day He gave me understanding.

He helped me to see another perspective to this parable, and like the ten virgins, many of us are morally upright, some people are so upright that if they sense sin, they sneeze - I joke. As earlier stated, it's good to have good morals guiding us because as Jesus said, He didn't come to abolish the laws, He came to fulfill them, so good morals are a hundred percent encouraged, but your morals alone cannot lead you to heaven. We often forget that our righteousness is like a filthy rag to Him, this is why we need to go to GOD and ask to be led by His Spirit continually but like the foolish five virgins, we don't see the need for the extra oil to keep our light burning. We forget that it was the light that helped us get to where we are in the first place and without light, we are unable to see where we are going. Some of us, because we have grown to a "certain level of righteousness" and we feel "righteous," we think we don't need Jesus, the light, as much as we did when we started the journey. So, we start to unknowingly lose passion and hunger for more of God - The Oil, and depend on our morals. Eventually our lights get dimmer by the day till there's no more light in our lives.

I pray you won't run out of oil in Jesus name.

* * *

The two-part miracle - Mark 8:22-26

The Holy Spirit gave me a perspective behind Jesus' two-part miracle when healing the blind man in the above passage, and like you did or are doing, I wondered why Jesus didn't heal the man at once.

Read the passage again carefully

1. They were in Bethsaida
2. Jesus brought him out of Bethsaida
3. He laid His hands on him and spat on it - First sight.
The purpose of this was to show him why he took him out of Bethsaida - I'll come back to it.
4. He asked him what he saw, and he said men like trees walking all over.
5. Jesus restored his sight fully.
6. Jesus warned him not to go back there.

To answer the mystery in number 2, 3 and 6, He led me to Matthew 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

It is safe to assume Bethsaida was an unrepentant city. It was the hometown to 3 of Jesus' disciples (Philip, Andrew, and Peter) and they experienced more miracles than most towns but yet, they refused to submit to God.

The passage started with - "they brought him to Jesus.". It was a norm for them to come, receive miracles and leave. If you read the passage, you will see Jesus was so pissed that He led the blind man out of the town first then He showed him why He led him out. He saw men like trees, walking all over.

Do you know one of the main qualities of a tree? Psalms 1: 3 reveals this:

"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-- whatever they do prospers."

A tree is meant to be planted but what he saw was moving about and according to the same passage, what happens to trees that are planted and get a regular supply of water? They yield fruits, their leaves don't wither, they prosper, etc. but the ones in Bethsaida that had seen all sort of miracles, had disciples of Jesus from their town, and still refused to repent. Jesus showed the man why He led him out, but it was not recorded that he understood. The people of Bethsaida were trees that refused to be rooted, and they moved from one place to another and in this short vision, Jesus explained their fate: no fruit, they will wither, they won't prosper, etc

2.

Who is The Holy Spirit?

“The most important person on the face of the earth is the Holy Spirit - Dr. Myles Munroe.”

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever— the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive [and take to its heart] because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you continually and will be in you” - John 14:16

“But the [b]Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.” - John 14:26

The Holy Spirit is very many beautiful things to us like a comforter, friend, advocate, intercessor, teacher, strengthener, advocate, teacher, reminder, etc. but those

are things He does for us, the question is who is He?

* * *

The Holy Spirit, the power of God.

Some time back, I was trying to understand the Trinity (God - The Father, Son, and the Spirit) and I was taken to the beginning, Genesis, to find them and to better understand God.

Gen 1:2 - "...the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." - I found the Holy Spirit and in Gen1:3 - I found God, but I could not find The Son. The Holy Spirit then brought to my remembrance two passages, John1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." and 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, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth".

I went back to the book of Genesis to look for The Son who had now been revealed to me as The Word in John 1:14, and I started searching for a particular word that will point me to Him in Genesis to prove He existed since the beginning as mentioned in John 1:1. After a while the Holy Spirit impressed upon my heart to go back to John 1:1 and I led to check the original Hebrew word according to the passage for "The Word" which is "logos" and the direct meaning of that is "The Saying". Now, slowly putting all that together, you will realise that Jesus Christ is

everything that God, The Father, said, i.e., everything God spoke had a name and His name is Jesus Christ.

The Trinity is God - The Father, The Word or The Saying or The Son, The Holy Spirit. I got to know that there are other parts of God, the Father, like His voice - Gen 3:8 “and they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden”. So The Father, i.e., God in His entirety comprises of many parts like His Voice, His Word, His Spirit, etc. Just like as human beings we have our intangible parts like our soul, spirit, our voice, our word, etc. as we are made in His likeness - Genesis 1:27. What puzzled me was that, of all the many parts of God, He said only two parts are as important or equal to Him in His entirety - His Word or Saying and His Spirit.

Remember, we are made in His image and likeness, and when the spirit of a person leaves its body, we refer to the person as dead. So, the spirit of the person is the actual life of the person. The spirit of a person is the power that keeps the person's body moving, allows him to think, speak, act, etc. So the Holy Spirit is the core of God, He's the power of God - that's why it was not possible for Jesus to be conceived on earth without the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), neither was it possible for Jesus to start His ministry without the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22-23).

In Mark 3:28-30, Jesus told the people that the one sin that's unforgivable is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. You can't expect to hold a live wire carrying a massive load of

current without any form of insulation and expect to survive it. That's why it was necessary for Jesus to die for us and provide us with a way for our sins to be cleansed before we have access to the Holy Spirit that we lost originally because of the sin committed by Adam. If we were given access to the Holy Spirit in our sin, none of us would survive it.

The Holy Spirit speaks to the Father on your behalf - He advocates for us (Romans 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit can teach you all things (John 14:26) - Sometimes He brings it to your knowledge through direct revelation and other times, He asks you read and gives you remarkable understanding. - You receive power when the Holy Spirit fills you (Acts 1:8). Power over sin and power for signs and wonders. There's always change when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. However, there's a proper distinction between having the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit. A glass that is half full of water isn't full of water; it simply has water, so the purpose of this book is not about having some of the Holy Spirit like you do when you are born again but being filled with the Holy Spirit.

3.

What does the Holy Spirit do to you?

Looking through the lives of everyone that had an encounter with the Holy Spirit, a constant thing was positive changes. It's common knowledge that Paul, before his encounter with the Holy Spirit was a Pharisee, a strict follower of the Jewish law and was after the lives of any Jew that practiced anything outside of the law. When he encountered Jesus, on his way to find more people to get arrested and killed, his hunger to kill and get people arrested first died, then the deep hunger to know more about God was birthed in him, he was told his purpose and was shown how to go about fulfilling his purpose.

The Holy Spirit is not just interested in your Spiritual life but your physical well-being too. In Matthew 14:13-21, He fed over 5000 people because He knew their need was for physical food not spiritual at that point. In Matthew 9:20-22, He healed the woman with the issue of blood because her need was for physical healing not spiritual at that point. In Matthew 17:24-27, Peter needed to pay his tax, and it was provided for through the mouth of a fish. He is interested in all areas of your life.

Let's have a quick look at Peter's life before and after

the filling of the Holy Spirit.

* * *

PETER: BEFORE

Matthew 14:29-30 - "Come," said Jesus. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on water, and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" - This was when Peter saw Jesus walking on water and being Peter; He asked Jesus for power to walk on water too, and he started well but not long after, He was afraid.

Mark 14:29-31 - "But Peter said unto him, although all shall be offended, yet will not I. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, that this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise, also said they all."

Luke 22:56-57 - "Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, this man also was with him. But he denied it, saying, Woman, I do not know him."

I assume we are familiar with these stories and I believe it's safe to assume Peter was the loudest and most outspoken of the disciples because of all the disciples when Jesus was on earth, he spoke the most. The other disciples were somewhat quiet, or Peter was just too loud.

Even with the level of confidence Peter always had to speak or react, Peter cried when he got on the water, and he saw the strength of the wind. His confidence went from 100 - 0 quick. The big lesson, there's only an extent to which your non-Holy Spirit inspired confidence can take you.

Peter in the 2nd passage was so boastful that he cannot deny Jesus even to the point of death and in the 3rd passage, it was a servant, not a soldier or anybody of real influence that said Peter looks like someone that was with Jesus. Peter's response is a funny one, "Woman, I do not know him." From experience, as a man, when we start a reply to a lady's question with "Woman," it's either we say it jokingly, or that's a different level of seriousness. He started with "Woman" Peter was not joking, he was gripped with fear of what may become of him seeing what was being done to Jesus. So, like many of us, we agree that Peter was a mess before the filling of the Holy Spirit.

* * *

PETER: AFTER

Peter got filled in Acts 2, and something wonderful happened, the people that were filled spoke in tongues (languages they had not previously learned). The Holy Spirit gave them utterance. A multitude came together, different people could hear their different languages, and they were all speaking of the wonderful works of God. Some people

were amazed and while others called them drunk.

Now Peter, who could not say he was with Jesus to a maid, was confident enough speak to over 3000 people about Jesus and they all gave their lives to Christ. In Acts 3, Peter who was scared to walk on water after he saw the strength of the wind was used by the Holy Spirit to raise a lame man. In Acts 4, Peter that could not say he was with Jesus to a maid spoke and won 5000 people to Christ even after the rulers warned him not to speak about Jesus and flogged him, in fact, Acts 5:40 says he was beaten, and he went rejoicing - yes, the same Peter. What changed in Peter's life? The Holy Spirit was fully present. Peter, who was sinking as a result of fear some passages back, it was recorded in Acts 5:15 that his shadow was healing people.

I used to have a problem with speaking to a large crowd of people. Even to a number as small as 6, I would avoid it like my life depended on avoiding it and one time I did speak, and it was a disaster, I was not coordinated, I spoke on the lowest pitch of my voice that day, but God took control. Not long after I spoke to God about not being able to speak and He told me to start reading some books which I did, and even though I don't take on every speaking engagements, when I do speak, I speak with confidence I know I can't have had by myself. He can fill you with the words or give you an instruction, just obey. So, if you have self-esteem or confidence issues, speak to God to help you, and He will.

2 Corinthians 3:18 - "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord--who is the Spirit--makes us increasingly like him as we are changed into his glorious image". What the Holy Spirit does in you is change you into Himself by getting you to focus on Him constantly, and throughout that journey, you realise you bear fruits like humility, love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, etc

4.

How eager is the Holy Spirit to fill you up with Himself?

Notice I have referred to Him as a person from the start? I call Him “He” because He’s a person. You can have conversations with Him as I have several times and every time I have, it has been wonderful, and I look forward to the next time. Your body is a vessel and what keeps your body moving is that your spirit is in your body and once your spirit leaves the body, it becomes lifeless so you are a spirit that can do all the activities you can, not because you have a body but because your Spirit is still in your body. Same with the Holy Spirit, He speaks, laughs, can be hurt by our actions or inactions, etc. He is just forever in His Spirit form so yes you can have conversations with the Holy Spirit, He can crack you up, your actions can hurt him, etc.

When I say He wants to fill you up, I mean He wants to get more of you not us getting more of Him as He’s complete, but He has just as much access as you give him. He wants to guide you, teach you, lead you, etc. but He can’t do that until you yield yourself completely to Him.

He’s eager for you to experience His fullness and how do I know that? I’ll summarise Acts 10, but you should have a read. In Acts 10, God told Peter to go to the house of a

Centurion, Cornelius. There were no explicit instructions on what he should do there and even though it was a struggle in his mind to go initially, he went. He got there and was speaking to them about Jesus, from the beginning of His ministry on earth till He left and while He was still talking something happened, vs. 44 says "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." I find this funny because it looks to me like the Holy Spirit was just waiting for Peter to finish talking with hopes that he will finish soon but it seemed like Peter's message was not going to end so He interrupted the message, took charge of the atmosphere, and fell on them. That's how much the Holy Spirit is eager to fill you up with power over sin, over sicknesses, the power to heal the sick, power for divine inspiration to make a positive impact on the earth, etc. but you must first surrender and yield to Him.

Are you willing to surrender?

5.

How to be filled with Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit can choose any method or place to fill you up but there are three things that remained constant in the stories of people that were filled with the Holy Spirit.

We will be looking at two accounts in the bible to confirm this and just to quickly recap, you, being filled with the Holy Ghost is not having more of the Holy Ghost but the Holy Ghost having all of you - submitting your everything to Him for His control. It's possible to live a life free of sin if you live a submitted life to God. A life that He oversees. Against popular belief, He does not make you a dunce or present you a "boring" life. Instead, He deepens your understanding, teaches you how to have a fun life outside sin, give you a deeper understanding of your identity, teaches you not to judge, helps you gradually become free from bad habits, etc

First account: "And, being assembled with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me." - Acts 1:4 "Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey." - Acts 1:12

Second account: "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming to him and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, what is it, Lord? And he said unto him, thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;" - Acts 10:1-7

* * *

FAITH

The first constant thing in both accounts as you might have guessed is Faith. Using the above account, we can say surrendering caused the disciples to obey when Jesus asked them to go back to Jerusalem till they receive the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit, however, did not come down on them the same day (Acts 1:15) Jesus left to fill them up, they were in one house waiting for what was promised, but there was no physical evidence that He was coming. They could have gone after the first day or second day or even the third, but they stayed, praying because they believed

(had faith in) the word of God, Jesus. - Cornelius, someone appeared to him and said he should go to one person's house to call a Jew to minister to him. What evidence did he have that Peter was where he was told he would be? None. To make it worse, it was not even a human being that informed him that Peter was there, but like the disciples, when he got the word, he acted on it even when it can seem illogical.

You must first believe that He is, then surrender to Him, every part of your life then let Him lead you. It will be the best decision you have ever taken when you look back.

* * *

SURRENDER

Another very similar thing in both accounts is their response to the instruction from God; they acted without questions or second thoughts. That level of obedience can only be birthed out of surrender. You are probably thinking, "but I have surrendered my life to Jesus already," have you? Shut your eyes and take a moment to ponder on the most precious thing or act to you, it can be your love for shoes, dress, your relationship, your planned career path, etc. If one day, God says leave everything and go somewhere I'll show you, think about your first natural response without lying to yourself; will pick up your bag and follow? Or spend time arguing or thinking about it? Or would you start binding the devil thinking it's his voice? If you were to

honestly rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, how surrendered are you?

* * *

HUNGER FOR MORE OF GOD

Another common thing we can see in the accounts is their desire for God; the disciples stayed days not just sitting but praying. Cornelius was Italian not a Jew yet verse 2 of Acts 10 described him as a devout and God-fearing man, he evidently had experienced God to have been devout, and hunger for more of whatever experience God gave him made him want more of God.

If you study the book of Acts, after the Holy Spirit had filled people up with Himself, purposeful signs and wonders were performed by such people everywhere they went. They healed the sick, raised dead, opened the eyes of the blind, etc., and even at one point, Peter's shadow was healing the sick. The Holy Spirit of then is still the one around now, not changed. He wants to make your life filled with signs and wonders so through you; people can be led away from darkness into His light of love. Let's look at a quick example in Acts 8:9-24, So there was a man in Samaria called Simon, and he was a sorcerer. He did all sort and obviously got the attention of people so much that they called him by the name of The Holy Spirit, "The Great power of God" but one thing led to another, Phillip was in town, and people submitted their lives to Christ and were baptised including the sorcerer. The Bible says he was

following Phillip everywhere because of how amazed he was by the signs and wonders he saw Phillip perform. Imagine someone living above the normal human being because he had limited power from a wrong means following another person in amazement, only greater power could have caused him to follow and wonder and he obviously wanted it that higher power badly.

Fast forward to when some of the Apostles came to pray for the new converts in Samaria to receive the Holy Ghost. Simon who witnessed signs and wonders being performed in amazement saw someone else being transferred that power from another person, and He immediately hungered not just for the power to perform miracles, signs, and wonders. He wanted to be able to give that power too, and at this point, he was willing to give out his money for this ability because he had witnessed real power. You can't apparently pay money to be filled with the Holy Spirit as He is willing to come into anyone fully that is ready for Him to take charge but Simon's kind of deep hunger from the heart is what I am encouraging us to have for the Holy Spirit.

6.

What happens after you are filled?

As mentioned in the 3rd chapter, after you are filled, one inevitable thing is change. The extent of change each one will experience will differ, depending on their past life , but surely, there will be change as you are led by the Spirit of God and you follow.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God." - Romans 8:14. Before one can lead successfully, another must follow so obedience to God is key to everything to read next.

You were originally just a creation, not a child of God, but out of love, you have been grafted into sonship as the only child that was begotten was Jesus. To beget means to bring a child into existence and since we understand that Jesus is the word/saying of God, we know how Jesus was begotten. The blood of Jesus allowed for those of us that have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour to be joint heirs of the Father with Him and helped us become adopted into God's family. The child of a King is a prince/

princess who is potentially a ruler too if his/her Father gives him/her a portion of land to rule. Now see what God did, "The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, But the earth He has given to the sons of men." - Psalm 115:16. God is King of everything, but he didn't create this current version of the earth for Himself, He created it for us human beings and as children of a King that have been assigned land, what are we expected to be? We are expected to be rulers over the earth.

The earth is an extension of God's kingdom to be ruled by men, but sadly, many of us children of God have given up our seats as rulers to people that are not yet children for one reason or the other. A ruler is expected to influence her citizens, and since we gave up our seats to creations that are not yet children, they influence everything we do when we should be the ones rubbing off on them.

A child of God is a god, and before you think I am teaching blasphemy, Jesus confirms it in John 10:35 (read from verse 29 - 36 for better understanding) and Psalm 82:6. When you leave the realm of a human being to a god, that's a massive step up because you start to operate in ways beyond the understanding of people, what you say sometimes cannot make sense to them, so they see as foolishness. Through you, things their minds cannot fathom happens and they end up coming to you to show them the way - that's what happened with Peter, Paul, Jesus, etc. Signs and wonders were performed.

The Holy Spirit causes you to rule in the capacity God assigned for your life so you can draw men to the loving Father.

In conclusion, the Holy Spirit is the power of God, and he is looking to come upon the lives of all men and even better, fill them up but we, individually, have our part to play to be filled. The primary purpose of filling you up is so through your life, signs, and wonders can be performed, and people can come to the knowledge of the Kingdom through you.

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God bless you!

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