

The Way of the Lord

16. Your Relationship With Your Lord Jesus (Part 1)

Our past six segments have focused on your relationship with your heavenly Father. In this segment and in several to follow, we'll focus on your relationship with JESUS as both your Savior and the Lord of your life. Your relationship with our Lord flows out of His Spirit's presence in you. When you were born from above, you became a new creation. The Spirit of Christ took up His dwelling within you. And when the Holy Spirit dwells in you, He gives you spiritual power.

Let's look at some of the assurances God gives us about His Spirit at work in those who follow Jesus as their Lord:

- *"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come"* (2 Corinthians 1:21,22).

By giving you the Holy Spirit at your rebirth, your heavenly Father is guaranteeing that HE won't break His part of the covenant.

- *"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:5,8).

Through the indwelling Spirit, those who love and serve Jesus bear witness of Him to others wherever they go! Jesus knows His followers NEED spiritual power in order to do His Father's will.

- The need for spiritual power permeates both the Older and Newer Testaments: As the Prophet Zechariah proclaimed, *"Not by might nor by power, BUT by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty*" (Zechariah 4:6).

- The everlasting promise of the Holy Spirit is for ALL of us who have repented and trusted in Jesus as our Lord:

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And YOU WILL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38,39).

The presence of the Holy Spirit in those who love and serve Jesus is what sets us apart from the rest of the world. If you've trusted in Jesus as Lord of your life and have embraced our Father's Covenant, then His presence within you is evidence of that relationship.

The Newer Testament calls the Holy Spirit the "Spirit of CHRIST" (Acts 16:7; Philippians 1:19; 1 Peter 1:11). His presence confirms that Jesus OWNS us, because He purchased us with His blood (Revelation 5:9). The flip side of this statement is the "bad news" for those who SAY they're Christian but DON'T have the Spirit in them: *"If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ"* (Romans 8:9).

If the Spirit of Christ DOESN'T dwell within you, then what? You certainly don't belong to the Father, nor will you be welcomed at the Judgment Throne. This isn't a question to be taken lightly, especially if you haven't based your understanding of Jesus on God's Word. Maybe you've gone along instead with the world's ways and unscriptural beliefs. The apostle Paul emphasized that the Spirit's presence proved whether someone was an authentic Jesus follower or was just religious and going through motions: *"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"* (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Think about it. If you've embraced the Father's Covenant as presented in His Word, then the Spirit of God LIVES in you! You're His "temple" He works through according to our Father's will and purposes.

- *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"* (1Corinthians 3:16)

- *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own"* (1Corinthians 6:19).

If you've embraced our Father's Covenant, the Spirit of Christ lives in you. That's a biblical fact guaranteed by God in His Word. Since our Lord has promised this, do you need any other assurance? Press one more glorious reality into your innermost being: *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has trust in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12). Our Lord Jesus promises us as His own that we'll be doing greater things than He did while on earth. This isn't just theory; it's His guarantee!

Let's look at the spiritual power Jesus used during His 3 years here.

- Jesus received power when the Holy Spirit came upon Him at baptism.
- He was then able to feed thousands.
- He had power to heal the blind.
- He could calm the raging sea.
- He drove out demons.
- He brought the dead back to life.

Each of the Gospels glories in the spiritual power Jesus displayed. And in the Epistles His disciples exercise that same spiritual power—the power that's promised to everyone who loves and follows Jesus. But maybe you've never experienced this Holy Spirit power in your life. Mike and I rejoice in how the Spirit has shown Himself so powerfully! We've even been privileged to talk with two men God raised from the dead for His Kingdom purposes.

Sadly, though, several reasons keep people from experiencing the spiritual power Jesus promises so that His Name will be lifted up. In future segments we'll expose these hindrances so you too can experience the FULLNESS of your relationship with your Lord Jesus. Even if the Holy Spirit is dwelling within you, you need to purposefully identify and remove whatever KEEPS you from living the WAY of our Lord that He's promised you.

For Further Study:

- Hebraic Article: *The Gospel of the Covenant Is the Pilgrimage to Salvation*

- Lifebyte 66.

The Hebraic Restoration: Our Father s Plan to Restore the Spiritual Power of the Early Church

Lesson 1: How Christendom Forsook Spiritual Power (Part 1)

- Lifebyte 67.

The Hebraic Restoration: Our Father s Plan To Restore the Spiritual Power of the Early Church

Lesson 2: How Christendom Forsook Spiritual Power (Part 2)

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