

Lesson #9—The Enablement of the Holy Spirit for Daily Service.

Introduction

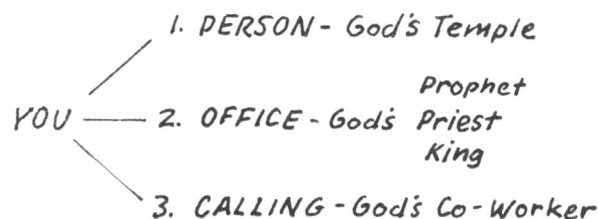
- A. In this series of lessons we have been learning more and more about the gracious ministry of our "Helper"—the blessed Holy Spirit. It is overwhelming to realize how great and good He is and what He seeks to do for us and through us.
- B. The last two lessons that have emphasized the fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit has brought this into sharp focus. As we have read the verses which describe His work in these areas—all of us have become embarrassed and ashamed about our own life. He has come to indwell us so that we may be richly blessed and yet we have failed so miserably in our cooperation with Him!
- C. In this lesson all facets of this divine provision are brought to bear upon the thought of our service for God. As we study together we are going to be greatly encouraged and challenged as we learn how the Holy Spirit seeks to enable us and use us for the glory of God.

I. The Promise of Divine Enablement.

- A. The Biblical teaching regarding power.

- 1. The theme stated, Acts 1:8.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



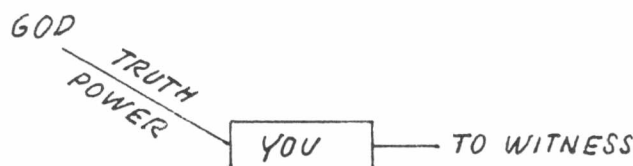
Observation: The Lord Jesus, after His Resurrection, commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for this promise to be fulfilled (Acts 1:4, 5). This was to be the key to their ministry. The fulfillment came on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). It is important that we understand how all believers are included in this promise. We too have been given the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may be a witness of God. While we may not have the unusual gifts of the apostles—we have the anointing of the Holy Spirit for service.

- 2. The theme explained, Matthew 28:18-20.

And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, **lo, I am with you always**, even unto the end of the world. Amen.



Observation: This Great Commission has been given, in some manner, to all believers. We have the responsibility to be involved personally and corporately in the fulfillment of this command. The encouragement in all of this is found in the reminder that all power is vested in the Lord Jesus Christ and that He has promised to be with each of us and work through us as we seek to fulfill this directive in our daily life. This can be a reality for all of us because of the divine provision of the Holy Spirit our "Helper". The Lord Jesus gave the blessed Holy Spirit to His church so every believer would have the enablement for service (Acts 2:33).

B. The Biblical teaching regarding witnessing.

1. The theme stated, John 15:26, 27.

But **when the Comforter (Helper) is come**, Whom I will send unto you from the Father, even **the Spirit of Truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, **He shall testify of Me**, **And ye also shall bear witness**, because ye have been with Me from the beginning.

Observation: These verses state the relationship between the person and work of the Lord Jesus, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the witness He bears in and through the believer today. While originally spoken to the disciples, the teaching of this passage and the principles involved, form the background of our service for God. The Holy Spirit, our "Helper" has come to teach us the great truths regarding the Lord Jesus and then to enable us to be a witness for Him. It is almost beyond comprehension to realize how great a privilege this is for each of us as believers. To live without being used of God in this way must be to miss the very meaning of life.

2. The theme explained.

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are **witnesses**. Acts 2:32

But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you, And killed the Prince of life, Whom God hath raised from the dead, **whereof we are witnesses**. Acts 3:14, 15

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree...

But **we are His witnesses of these things**, and so is also the **Holy Ghost**, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him. Acts 5:30, 32

Observation: These verses point out the practical way in which the Holy Spirit enabled the early Christians to fulfill the Great Commission. They began where they were by giving their testimony and explaining the truths regarding the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this record of their work in the Book of Acts, we have the fulfillment of the promises made earlier by the Lord Jesus. This ministry is being carried on today. Every one of us must be concerned about becoming increasingly involved in this work of the Holy Spirit as a witness for God.

II. The Provision of Divine Enablement.

A. The power of the Holy Spirit through our testimony.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:34, 35

That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me**. John 17:21

Observation: These verses clearly teach that God will use our love for one another and our unity to prove to the non-Christian world that we are true believers. All that we have seen in the lesson thus far can be brought to bear upon our daily life. As Christians we have the ability to live for God. When we practice the truth of the daily life by faith, love, and hope—the Holy Spirit will use the testimony of our life for the glory of God. This should lead us to carefully examine our priorities, goals, manner of life, recreation, relationships with people, attitude of life, friends, and involvement in our local church.

B. The power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.

...**The words** that I speak unto you, **they are spirit**, and **they are life**. John 6:63

And, now brethren, I commend you to God, and to **the word of His grace** which is **able to build you up**, and **to give you an inheritance** among all them which are sanctified. Acts 20:32

For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for **it is the power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth... Romans 1:16

So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God**. Romans 10:17

Observation: These verses are only a few among many which teach a great truth—God has given us His Word and He will use His Word as a source of power among those to whom we give it. No wonder the Scripture is described as

...The Word of God...quick (living) and powerful... Hebrews 4:12

We must learn how to explain the Bible, and particularly the gospel (Romans 1:1-4; II Cor. 15:1-4) to people. Every believer has the ability to understand and to help others to understand the Scripture. When we do so we are cooperating with the Holy Spirit.

C. The power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God—illustrated.

1. The Bible is likened to seed—to give life, I Peter 1:23.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the Word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Observation: This is the most basic need of every member of the human race. God reaches into our lives with deep conviction and brings us to repentance and faith through the message of the Bible. All of us must learn to use the Scripture in our contacts with people. In particular it is helpful to know the plan of salvation and explain it whenever we can make an opportunity.

2. The Bible is likened to a lamp—to enlighten, Psalm 119:105.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Observation: The sinner needs the illumination which only the Bible, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, can bring to him. As believers we also need the Word of God if we are to know God and live for His glory. We can bring truths of great value to people through living and explaining the Word of God.

3. The Bible is likened to water—to cleanse, Eph. 5:25, 26.

...Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might **cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word**.

Observation: It is God's will for the believer to increasingly live in freedom from the fleshly nature, the culture of the world, and from Satan. The means of this cleansing is through exposure to the Scripture. It is God's plan to use His Word to cleanse His people. We must read the Bible, with an honest and open heart, and give it out to others.

4. The Bible is likened to food—to strengthen, Hebrews 5:12.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the **oracles of God**, and are become such as have need of **milk** and not of **strong meat**.

Observation: Growth, strength, and fruitfulness in the Christian life is intimately tied into our involvement with the Word of God. Many of the problems in our daily life can be traced back to a failure to read, understand, and practice the Bible. God will use us as we seek to bring the message of His Word to others.

5. The Bible is likened to a shield—to guard, Psalm 91:4.

He shall cover thee with His feathers and under His wings shalt thou trust, **His truth shall be thy shield and buckler**.

Observation: We all realize our need of protection. God has made a gracious provision for us in His truth. When we desire to know and practice the truth we are availing ourselves of a divine shelter. It is important that we bring this defense to others. Our sin has made us vulnerable to many forms of danger.

6. The Bible is likened to a sword—to protect, Ephesians 6:17.

And take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.**

Observation: The Christian has a weapon to use against Satanic attack—it is the truth of the Word of God. We must learn how to use the Scripture as a weapon and teach others how to do so. The believer is a soldier and the Word of God is our weapon. When we use the Scripture for our protection and advance—this opens the door for the Holy Spirit to become involved in our daily life. The Bible is "...the sword of the Spirit..."

7. The Bible is likened to a rock—to support, Matthew 7:24.

Therefore whosoever heareth **these sayings of Mine** and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which **built his house upon a rock.**

Observation: This graphic illustration points out the need that all of us have for a firm foundation for life. It is not enough to simply live day by day without making adequate provision for the future. When we live according to the Bible we are developing the kind of under-structure that will endure. We can help others to do this by teaching them the Scripture.

III. The Pattern of Divine Enablement.

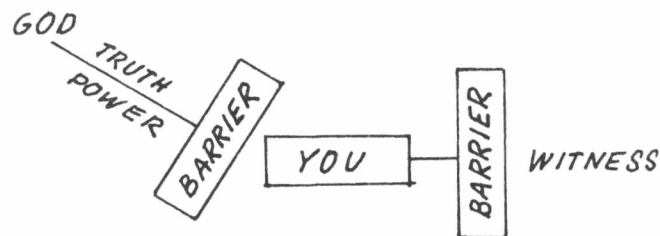
A. The Christian is described as a source of living water, John 7:37-39.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.

He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

But **this spake He of the Spirit** which they that believe on Him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

Observation: The Holy Spirit indwells the believer so that he may be a source of living water to those about Him. This concept of living water is often used in the Bible to speak of the ministry of God in human hearts. That interpretation should be made here. A further thought is given in these verses, however. It is the great truth that God reaches into the lives of people through other believers. We must pray about this for ourselves and for one another. We must ask if we have the values, the priorities, the knowledge, the commitment that God can use? God wants to use each of us for His glory.



B. The Christian is described as an example, I Thess. 1:7-10.

So that **ye were ensamples** to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place **your faith to God—ward is spread abroad**, so that we need not to speak any thing.

For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how **ye turned to God** from idols **to serve** the living and true God,

And **to wait** for His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Observation: It is important to see, in these verses, how the daily life of these believers was the testimony to and the exposition of the Word of God to others. How these individuals had repented, turned to God, served the Lord, and indicated their expectancy of the Lord's return was all an explanation of the message of the Bible. This is a reminder that God will use us as examples in the lives of others.

C. The Christian is described as a steward, I Peter 4:10.

As every man hath received the gift, even so **minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

Observation: We read this verse in the last lesson to indicate that we have all received at least one gift to serve for the glory of God. The presence of this gift makes it possible for us to be a steward of God's grace to others. A steward is one to whom certain resources have been given so they may be dispensed to those in need. God has made it possible, through the presence and work of our "Helper", for each of us to bring the message of salvation to the lost or spiritual help to believers.

D. The Christian is described as a priest.

And **ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests**, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. Exodus 19:6

Ye also as lively stone, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ...

But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people, **that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.** I Peter 2:5, 9

And from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

And **hath made us kings and priests unto God** and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:5, 6

Observation: A priest is one who has the right and the ability to represent God to men and men to God. The Old Testament priest served God in the temple, prayed, and taught the people. Every believer, in the New Testament Church, is a priest. We can pray, not only for ourselves, but for others, and we can teach the Word of God by daily life and humble explanation. The power and effectiveness of this right and ability cannot be expressed in words. Only our lack of understanding and lack of compassion keeps us from fulfilling our office of the priesthood!

Conclusion:

- A. From these many verses we realize there is no lack in the provision God has made for us. All of this is focused upon the ministry of the blessed Holy Spirit, our "Helper". We are His temple. He has graciously included us in His plan to evangelize, to administer, to edify, to lead, and to teach.
- B. We must begin by confessing our failure to cooperate with Him as we should. The next step is start where we are—giving our testimony—explaining the verses of the Bible—encouraging people—pointing them to Jesus Christ—being good examples and stewards of the grace of God. In all of this we will increasingly be brought to the realization of what it means to be a co-worker with God.