

Cooperating with the Holy Spirit (2)

Introduction

- A. The Holy Spirit has been given to every believer, by our Heavenly Father, to be our Helper.
- B. The specific goal of the Holy Spirit is to exalt the Lord Jesus in and through us.
- C. Every believer is exhorted to "Keep in step with the Spirit" (Gal 5:5). This lesson is designed to present one vitally important way of doing just that. My goal is to emphasize the necessity and value of making Biblical affirmations and to exhort you to do so. If you will begin to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in this way -- you will receive tremendous help.

I. **The Biblical Emphasis on Affirmations – Affirming the Truth.**

- A. Our Lord Himself sets the stage by declaring, affirming, and proclaiming the truth.

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness ... Exodus 34:6

Comment: In revealing Himself to Moses the Lord simply spoke the truth of Who He is. This event teaches us the meaning of affirmations. They are truthful (full of truth) declarations. By speaking a person declares and affirms what is truth and what they believe. (See Pg 3A)

- B. We are exhorted to proclaim, declare and affirm truth.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say this-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe. Psalm 107:1,2

Comment: Many of the Psalms have this theme. We are here told an important truth -- not only about who God is -- but the vital necessity of keeping this truth always before us. Sad to say many believers fail miserably in this area. We are too often (1) unthankful, (2) do not believe God is good, and (3) do not believe He loves us. Such a hidden belief system will greatly hinder our spiritual growth, grieve the Holy Spirit, and make us miserable. See Pg3B

- C. We are exhorted to proclaim, declare and affirm the truth of what we believe.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak. II Corinthians 4:13 (Note the context of this verse.)

Comment: This quotation is a declaration by the Psalmist of his faith in God although he was in the midst of a serious trial (Psalm 106:10). Paul's emphasis is on how the believer is to deal with trials -- make a choice to believe God in spite of the trial -- and then declare that faith in a verbal affirmation. **This is a very important exhortation.** (See Pg 3C)

- D. We are exhorted to proclaim, declare and affirm the truth of personal salvation.

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9,10

Comment: Here we have the very heart of the Gospel: (1) The person of Jesus Christ, (2) His Lordship, (3) His resurrection, (4) heart belief, (5) justification, and (6) confession of faith. What serious contradiction we involve ourselves in when we question or deny what God has done—by calling into question our salvation, basic beliefs, and former confession of faith through some trial, or the lies of the enemy, and/or emotional upheaval. How should we respond? By choosing to believe the truth and then declare the truth in verbal affirmations. (See Pg 3D)

- E. We are exhorted to proclaim, declare and affirm the truth against the enemy.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power... Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the (spoken) word of God. Ephesians 6:10,17

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:11

Comment: The way we are to silence and overcome the enemy is to do what the Lord Jesus did: He declared the truth as His confession of faith. (See Matt. 4:1-11) Satan is a Liar (John 8:44), an Accuser (Rev. 12:10), and our Enemy (1 Peter 5:8). We are no match for him in ourselves. He seeks to overcome us by eroding away our faith through speaking error to us. He can and will lead us into depression, discouragement, bitterness, and unbelief through error and sin -- if we permit him to do so. We are all constantly under his attack. How can we overcome him? Obey the Bible: "Take... the sword of the Spirit which is the (spoken) word of God and overcome him... by the word of (your) testimony. " Notice what happens when we do. Ephesians 6:17 explains it -- the Holy Spirit will take our declaration/affirmation and use it as a sword against the enemy! In times of oppression we must choose to declare what we know to be the truth and vocally declare what we believe. There is no other way to freedom. See Pg 3E

- F. We are exhorted to proclaim, declare, and affirm the truth as a Christian witness.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

Comment: Our Lord did not commit the proclamation of the Gospel to angels but to weak vessels like you and me. He has told us to do a simple thing: tell people what we believe (the Gospel), and what happened to us when we believed. When we do that He said He would be with us (Matt 28:18-20). Someone told us the Gospel and God was with them and won us to Himself. Now we are to do the same by cooperating with the Holy Spirit. See Pg 4F

II. Examples of How to Proclaim, Declare, and Affirm the Truth.

(Make these affirmations as your personal choice of what is taught in the Bible and what you believe. State the truth out loud in a firm and strong voice, and do so in spite of how you feel or what is happening to you.

A. Affirming the truth of Exodus 34:6.

I believe in The LORD, the LORD God Almighty. I believe and declare that He is the one true and living compassionate and gracious God, that He is slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness. I take my stand on Who God is and praise Him for His wonderful self.

B. Affirming the truth of Psalm 107:1,2.

I choose to Give thanks to the LORD, and I believe and declare that he is good, and that his love endures forever. I confess before You, my Lord, that I have sinned against You in not being thankful for Who You are and for Your loving care over me. I confess that I have often thought and said things that implied You were not good, and that You did not love me. I apologize and ask for Your forgiveness. Give me the discernment and strength to live a life of thanksgiving, a life affirming that You are good and that Your love endures forever.

C. Affirming the truth of II Corinthians 4:13.

I declare and affirm, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that I am a believer by the grace of God. I proclaim the truth that God has brought me into a living relationship with Himself. I affirm that God is my Heavenly Father, that He cares for me as the apple of His eye, and that He has blessed me with every spiritual blessing in Jesus Christ. I reject every emotion and thought of doubt, unbelief, and self-pity. I choose to live as a true believer and I place my feet squarely upon the powerful and unchangeable Word of God. I choose to praise and trust God in spite of how I feel and in spite of the bad things that happen to me.

D. Affirming the truth of Romans 10.9,10.

I choose, declare, affirm and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all creation. I choose to affirm and declare that I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead I believe in my heart, that God has given me the gifts of His redeeming grace whereby I am now fully justified in His sight. I choose to confess before others my belief that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead

E. Affirming the truth of Ephesians 6:10,17 and Revelation 12:11.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I choose to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. I renounce all sinful self-confidence. I receive as an act of faith the strength God has provided for me. I declare that Jesus Christ has defeated Satan and all wicked spirits. I choose to live in and to practice that victory—affirming the power of the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ my Savior, and I speak the word of my testimony against all demonic endeavors to tempt and discourage me. I affirm my surrender to the Lord Jesus and choose not to love my life so much that I would deny Him in times of trial.

