**The Holy Spirit, Pastors’ Greatest and Most Urgent Need**

By: Pastor Owen Jack

WHY PASTORS NEED GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT

1. We are not of Christ if the Holy Spirit is not in us, in spite of our position or profession. Romans 8:9 tell us, “Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”
2. Without the Holy Spirit, we will experience great defeat in spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:12 tells us, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Flesh and blood cannot fight against supernatural powers.
3. Our ministry will be powerless when we fail to depend on the Holy Spirit; “It is the absence of the Holy Spirit that makes the gospel ministry so powerless. Learning, talents, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment may be possessed, but without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner will be won to Christ, but we will be accountable to God for the loss of souls” (Christ Object Lessons pg. 328).

With all the degrees behind our names we have not been able to bring about a revival of true Godliness and reformation to our churches. Just a few of our members have a sense of mission, only a few have ownership of the church, only a few are faithful in returning their tithes and offerings, and only a few support all church activities. Division and strife is destroying the unity of our churches. We are baptizing less and retaining a few. We have not made a significant impact on the Church and Society.

1. “We are not safe for a moment unless guided and controlled by God’s Holy Spirit. If we persistently refuse His divine guidance, we will be guided by emissaries from the prince of darkness, since messengers from the prince of darkness attend all who refuse to be controlled by the Holy Spirit” (Our High Calling pg. 187).

“Every man, woman and child that is not under the control of the spirit of God is under the influence of Satan’s sorcery” (Messages to Young People pg 287).

1. The complex problems and challenges we have to face daily in ministry are beyond our ability to handle without the Holy Spirit. We need the wisdom that only He can give.
2. Without the holy Spirit we will have position but no power. We will lack power to cast out demons, heal the sick and to minister to the felt needs of those we serve. Acts 1:8 tells us that we will receive power only after the Holy Spirit is come upon us.
3. The Holy Spirit can do for us in five minutes what we will take five years to accomplish.
4. Our lives will not reflect the qualities of the fruit of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22, 23.

If we want the Holy Spirit we have to meet the same conditions the first disciples met before Pentecost.

CONDITIONS WE NEED TO MEET TO RECEIVE GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT:

1. We need to confess and forsake all known sins. We need to confess the following:
2. If we neglect the saints by failing to visit them, feed them and meet their felt needs.
3. Our failure to do an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay.
4. If we submitted false monthly reports.
5. Our prayerlessness and failure to study God’s word except to prepare a sermon.
6. Professional jealousy.
7. If we neglected our wives and children.

The Spirit of Prophecy spells it out so clearly where it says: “I saw that none could share the “refreshing” unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action.” (EW 71)

“It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. (5T 214)

1. We need to give up all desire for position, power, praise of men and popularity. We need to ask God to help us to remember that true greatness is found in humility and service.
2. We need to put away all our differences and be united, The devil’s motto is “divide and conquer” We need to put away envy, strife, jealousy, malice, hatred, ill speaking of fellow Pastors with members. “We need to come into close unity with each other. When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy, when oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one another is seen and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come upon them” (1SM 175).
3. We must get involved in the business of soul winning and train, mobilize and organize our churches for the saving of souls.

“The great outpouring of the Spirit of God which lightens the whole earth with his glory will not come until we have an enlightened people that know by experience what it means to be co-laborers together with God. When we have entire whole hearted consecration to the service of Christ. God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure, but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God”( Christian Service p 253).

God is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to us than parents are willing to give good gifts to their children. But we have not received the former or latter rain power because the Holy Spirit is not appreciated, the promise of God’s Holy Spirit is little thought of and minor matters occupy our attention. As a result there is spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death, in the Church and the nation. Pastors let us meet the conditions so God can pour out His Spirit upon us and His Church. Then we will be able to finish the work in a blaze of glory and Jesus will come to take us home.

A baptism of God’s Holy Spirit is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs .To seek

this should be our first work.

1. We need to love one another. “Christianity is the revealing of the tenderest affection for one another……..Christ is to receive supreme love from the beings He has created. And He requires also that man shall cherish a sacred regard for his fellow beings. Every soul saved will be saved through love, which begins with God. True conversion is a change from selfishness to sanctified affection for God and for one another.” (1SM 114, 115)

“The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.” (MH 470)

1. We need total surrender to God. “God will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender. Half hearted, sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find no happiness, for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern the members of the royal family. The true Christian keeps the windows of the soul open heavenward. He lives in fellowship with Christ. His will is conformed to the will of Christ. His highest desire is to become more and more Christlike.” (RH May 16, 1907)

My prayer is that we will sense our need for God’s Holy Spirit and meet the conditions necessary for the outpouring of the latter rain upon us. As we are led by God’s Holy Spirit, He will use us to finish the work in a blaze of glory and to make the church ready for Christ’s soon return.