

LESSON 16

The Works of the Holy Spirit - III

Objective : Obey the Holy Spirit by understanding its works with that of the similies used in the word of God.

Bible Portion : Eze 37:1-14, 47: 1-12.

Memory Verse :

Isa 44:3. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

John 7:38: He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Introduction :

Holy Spirit is God. Though it is a part of trinity, it has got a different individuality and works accordingly. The works of the Holy Spirit is compared to the things in nature so that men can easily realize it.

1. Dove

At the time of Jesus Birth the Holy Spirit descending upon him as a dove (Mt. 3:16, Lk.3:22, Jn.1:32,3:32). Dove is well known for its integrity and beauty and it does not stay in unclean circumstances (Ps. 68:13, Songs: 5:2,6:9). It reveals the perfect beauty of the holiness of the Spirit. As we are the temple of God, must follow holiness and separation in life. The individuals and church filled with the Spirit are glorious every time (Ps 45:13, Songs 6:10).

2. Wind

In many places in the Bible the Holy Spirit is compared to the Wind.

- a) **John 3:8.** Wind blows where it likes to, we hear it but cannot see, don't know from where it comes. In this way, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, don't know its ways, but we can hear and experience it.
- b) **Eze 37:7-14.** The dry bones in the valley joined together, flesh appeared on them, and the skin covered them when they hear the word of God. But it does not have breath. When the wind blows on the bones, they got life and become an army. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to give real life. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit blows on the nations around the world and the churches grow in the abundance of the Spirit.
- c) **Acts 1: 1-2.** The power of wind is unlimited. The power of the Holy Spirit also is beyond measurement. It blows on the Apostles who were fearful and made them extra ordinary at the day of Pentecost. The term 'Dunamis' is used for the Holy Spirit there and it is the source of the Holy Spirit.

3. Fire (Acts. 2:3, Mt 3:11, Lk 3:16)

For the term baptism in Holy Spirit, two gospels uses the term the baptism in fire and Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, it came rushing upon the 120 gathered in Jerusalem as tongue of fire. It cleanses them by fire (1 cor 3:11-15). Holy Spirit is the power to test the individuals and society, and their activities. It burns up the unclean (who is not valuable) and cleanses the less valuable one more worthy. Every believer needs to undergo through the baptism in fire. As fire provides with light, heat and power, the Holy Spirit also gives us the light, heat and power in Spirit.

4. Oil

It was a usual custom in the Old Testament to anoint priest, kings and prophets by pouring out oil in their heads. (Ex 29:7, Lev. 8:12, I Sam 10:1, I Kings 19:16-17). It was a shadow of the Holy Spirit which separates us the royal priesthood (I pet 2:9). As oil makes our body beautiful, healthy and powerful the Holy Spirit blesses us with spiritual beauty, health and power (Ps.23:5,89:20, 104,115).

Oil is used to lit the lantern. As the believers, being the light of world should fill themselves with the Holy Spirit. Otherwise they may not be able to give the light to the world. As the wise virgins, we should store oil in us (Mt 25:1-13, Zech 4:1-6)

5. Streams of Water (RIVER) John:7:38)

Jesus said to Samaritan woman, But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life! On the last and greatest day of feast, Jesus spoke about the Spirit that will be received by the ones who believed in him. If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the scripture has said streams of living water will flow from within him! (Jn 4:14,7: 38, Is 12:3, 44:3). These verses are the Old Testament prophesies. We can see in many parts of the Bible the description of streams of water i.e., the Holy Spirit.

1. The river to water the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:10-14).
2. The river which broke out from the rock for the Israelites in the wildness (Ex 17:6-7, I cor 10: 4).
3. The river of life seen by the prophet Ezekiel in the vision (Ez 47:1-12).
4. We see the river of living water seen by the apostle John in the revelation (Rev. 22:1-2).

What does the stream do?

- a) **It waters the garden.** : The church is the garden of God. It must be watered all the times. Otherwise it may remain weak and barren (Gen 2:10).
- b) **Its satisfies the thirst** : Man's thirst can be satisfied when he starts to drink from the river of the Holy Spirit.(Jn 4:13-14,Ps 42:1-2,I Cori 10:4)
- c) **It makes us joyous.**: Psalms 46:4, 36:8. Holy Spirit gives the heart of people a static and real happiness. 'For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in Holy Spirit' (Rom 14:17).
- d) **It starts as a fountain, then it widnes.** : Ez. 47:1-6. The river of

living water which prophet Ezekiel saw in a vision starts under the threshold of the temple, its depth increases slowly. At last it becomes a great river, deep enough to swim in - a river that no one could cross. The Holy Spirit guides us throughout the deep Christian experience. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church (I Cori 14:4-5). We will submit fully to the Holy Spirit as we experience the baptism of the spirit in a higher level. We should submit and obey ourselves for the deep spiritual experiences.

- e) **It brings fruitful experience:** In Ezekiel 45 and Revelation 22, we see the trees of life beside the river of the living water and they produce every month new fruits. They are full of leaves having healing power and fruits with taste. When we always drink from the living water of the Holy Spirit, we can bear fruits and gifts in every circumstance.
- f) **It freshens the circumstances and brings life.:** In the vision of Ezekiel (Ez. 47:8-9), we see swarms of living creature lives wherever the river flows and there will be scattered during the persecution of first century. Wherever they went, the gospel and many received life. (Act. 8:4-8, 11:19-21). So let the river of living water flow from us whenever we reach and also freshen our circumstances and receive much spiritual life.

Conclusion

What are the similes used in the Bible for the works of the Holy Spirit? Do you decide to follow a fruitful and blameless life according to the filling of the Holy Spirit? Do you really experience the power and life of the Holy Spirit? Let us submit ourselves to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and also sanctified in the fire of the Spirit.

Questions

1. What are the important similes used to express the works of the Holy Spirit?
2. How dove represent the Holy Spirit?
3. Compare the nature and works of the Holy Spirit with that of wind?

4. How the works of the fire related to the works of the Holy Spirit?
5. How the oil represents the Holy Spirit?
6. Explain the flow of the life of water which Ezekiel saw in the vision. How it is related to the Holy Spirit?
7. How do the streams of water works? Compare it with the works of the Holy Spirit?
8. Can you evangelize your area for Christ? If not so, find out the reasons.