

# ***Calling Down the Holy Spirit***

By Mike Flynn

## INTRODUCTION

We in the church are familiar with invoking the Spirit's presence, but we don't usually label it "calling down the Holy Spirit." Every priest is aware of the "epiclesis" in the prayers of consecration, eg., "Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son..." (Prayer A). We're not at all unfamiliar with asking the Lord to be present in our gatherings. But we have not been trained to expect anything particular to happen when we invoke His presence. We've not been led by our training, our worldview, or our experience to expect anything tangible to occur when we call to Him to come. Very few of us have ever even expected Him to manifest His presence when we've asked Him to come. What is this new thing that's happening? How shall we regard it? Can we "do it" too?

## WHY ASK?

1. I have found only one instance of successful evangelism in the NT that was not explicitly attended by a display of the Spirit's power. So apparently it was normative to expect the Holy Spirit to back up one's proclamation of the Word.
2. I Corinthians 2:1-4 provides an additional reason: that people's faith "rest not on men's wisdom but on God's power."
3. Other reasons for calling down the Holy Spirit:
  - A. Allows God to initiate ministry;
  - B. Allows the Spirit to vindicate the preached word or witness;
  - C. Blesses those receiving Him;
  - D. Releases His power;
  - E. Enables you to see what the Father is doing;
  - F. Because John 15:5 is true, and the Holy Spirit is the minister;
  - G. Furthers the extending of His kingdom.

## HINDRANCES TO CALLING DOWN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Fear
  - A. That you're not good enough;
  - B. That He won't show up and you'll fail;
  - C. That He will show up and you won't know what to do next;
  - D. That God will expose your sins if you presume to try anything like that;
  - E. That you'll hurt the person somehow.

## 2. Superstition

- A. That you don't have the anointing to do this;
- B. That something beyond your control is in effect, eg., you didn't have godly enough parents;
- C. That the Holy Spirit will fall on one kind of church but not yours.

## 3. Structural Misconceptions

- A. That you have to be a leader or have designated authority or be a proven servant in order to call down the Holy Spirit;
- B. "I don't have the right to do this."

## 4. Lack of experience.

5. The "elastic clause of unbelief"; ie., "I don't know why He won't show up, but He won't."

6. "I'm supposed to know how to do this, but I don't, and I can't let anyone know."

## HOW TO CALL DOWN THE HOLY SPIRIT: "Come Holy Spirit"

### HOW TO NOTICE HIS PRESENCE

[These are not expectations, and given only for identification]

- A. Physical manifestations
  - Fluttering eyelids
  - Skin flushed or glowing
  - Shaking
  - Breathing changes
  - Falling
  - Apparent peace or agitation
  - Body rippling
- B. Discerning His presence in the Spirit
- C. Asking people what's happening to them
- D. Accept being uncomfortable

### THINGS THE SPIRIT DOES

- A. Heals
- B. Convicts
- C. Anoints for ministries
- D. He blesses

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