

Being In The Spirit

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“I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day ...”

Revelation 1:10

What does the Bible mean, “I was in the spirit (Spirit)?” Is this something that should be important to you in your spiritual development? Is it part of the salvation process? Does it happen to you automatically?

One of the reasons we have a mandate and such a burden to establish a training center here in America is to teach and train people in the area of not just the Word but also the Spirit. In addition, we get calls and emails every day from people all over the world who need deliverance, healing, or a miracle and we have no facility where they could come and be prayed over round the clock by a healing/miracle/deliverance team until they are set free. The vision the Lord gave me for these twenty years ago (and was confirmed in prophecy) resembles a university setting where you would have a College of Engineering, Law, Medical School, etc., except the Training Centers have one for each of the five offices – apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher and evangelist where people are trained to function in their office and anointing.

In 2004 at our church in Montana we began *Eye of the Eagle* classes on Wednesday nights instead of a regular church service. These classes met at our home and their primary objective is to develop people in spiritual things – to be more aware of the spirit realm because it is the *real* world. I began these classes under direction of the Holy Spirit based on some principles (and

questions) He began to give me in 2000 which aid a person in developing their spirit. This is different because it is not a Bible study but rather a study of the Holy Spirit and most of the answers to the questions cannot be looked up in the Scriptures or elsewhere although the *answers* are often found in the Scriptures if a person can dig them out and has the Wisdom of the Spirit to recognize them.

The first of these questions He asked me back then in January, 2000, while we were in Penticton, B.C., was this: “How was it that Daniel was able to read the handwriting on the wall?” Actually, this first question can be answered by a careful reading and meditation in Daniel; however, I had read the book of Daniel through at that time hundreds of times and I couldn’t answer the question off the top of my head. I responded, “Because Daniel was a prophet.”

The Spirit replied, “No, Jeremiah was a prophet but he wouldn’t have been able to read the handwriting.” So how could Daniel do it? What was different about him?

The only way to answer questions like these is by being “in the spirit (or Spirit).” How does one develop or enhance this ability? One of our biggest problems until our spirits are born again is that we spend our entire life being ruled and dominated by the five senses and our “carnal” mind. We must train and renew our minds through the Word of God to *think* and act the way God does (*cf.* Is. 55:8). If you do not renew your mind to *Absolute Truth* then you will continue to believe the façade that the “god of this world” has created and you will never develop your spirit – your carnal mind will dominate your spirit and you will lose the spiritual war being conducted against you by the devil.

The Holy Spirit knows the will of God, the counsel of God, the heart of God and the Word of God. When we spend time in the Word and in prayer and meditation (sitting quietly before the Lord) we expose our spirit to these things and the Holy Spirit can speak to us and influence us in a greater way. This is the first step to walking in the spirit. Many people try to shortcut this requirement; when you do this the Holy Spirit is not able to lay a proper foundation in you and often these people become goofy spiritually – since their mind is not renewed they are still operating out of their carnal mind (the area of the imagination). Much damage has been done in people’s lives because of this.

Think about it in this way if you are trying to have a conversation with someone and they speak a different language than you it is difficult to understand them. The carnal mind does not speak or understand the

language of God. We taught about this a few months back in the area of dreams and visions which is the *language* of the Holy Spirit; Paul said the “natural man” does not understand this language but only “the spirit of man.” The Word of God is the language of God – the more exposure we have the more we will understand what God is saying. The area of prayer brings us into the presence of God and allows us to get a better picture of what He is saying. The more we are conformed to the image of Christ the more we will understand Him and be able to walk in the Spirit. (Ephesians 4:21-24).

God, the holy angels and demonic angels all operate in the spirit realm and if you’re not able to then you’re at a distinct disadvantage, especially in spiritual warfare.

Physical science normally deals with three dimensions or four if you include “time”; however, we know very little about the dimension or realm of the spirit, the most important and powerful realm because a person has less limitations in this realm. You are able to travel and experience things the Lord wants you to experience like He did John in this vision on Patmos which you would be unable to do in just your physical body.

Evelyn and I have both had times when we were in the spirit and saw and did things that would have been impossible in the natural. For example one time Evelyn was at a weekly prayer meeting she was involved in and as she was interceding suddenly she felt warm sand beneath her feet. As she opened her eyes she was in the spirit. She was standing in front of a bunker dug into the sand in Iraq. This was during the Desert Storm campaign. There were a dozen or so Iraqi soldiers there. They were stunned when they saw her. The Lord spoke to her and said “This night I am requiring the lives of these men. Preach the gospel to them.” She preached to them in tongues and they heard it in their language. Why did the Lord do this?

Many of you will think that this is strange or impossible but I would remind you that there are many instances in the Word where a person was “taken by the Spirit.” One example is Paul as spoken of in Colossians 2:5-6, “For though I be absent in the flesh yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” Note that even though he was not there in the flesh he saw and beheld what was going on. John was in the spirit as recorded in Revelations 1:10 and 4:2.

In Acts 8:26-40 there is an account of the Spirit of the Lord physically taking Philip from Gaza to Azotus. There are many examples in the Old Testament as well, especially in the life of Elijah. I have also been transported many times in

the spirit to Heaven, into the devil's office once to confront him, and many other places. Like Evelyn, I've been taken in the spirit to preach the Gospel to people in other countries such as Japan.

Why don't we see and hear of these situations happening more in our day? Is it because the Lord no longer operates this way? Absolutely not! It's because the Body of Christ has lost sight of the importance of pressing into the deeper things of God and striving for holiness and it's because they have not been taught by 5-fold ministry how to operate in these things. The Lord will "withhold no good thing from those who walk uprightly." The Spirit of the Lord is searching throughout the lands looking for those whose heart is pure so that He can use them to do exploits for the Kingdom of God. (Daniel 11:32).

I know I've said it scores of times on this website during the past year but now, 2009, we are in the Year of the Holy Spirit and He is going to step up His activity both *in* and *through* those who seek God with all their hearts. The return of the Lord is drawing near and we must be about His business like never before.

In 1980 the Holy Spirit spoke to me and gave me one of the keys in addition to meditating the Word of God that has enabled me to develop spiritually. I shared this *rhema* in *Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom* and I want to encourage you to be disciplined to practice this spiritual exercise during 2009:

The Spirit said, "Spend much time praying in the Spirit and as you pray in the Spirit you will walk in the spirit and spiritual things will become more real to you."

We pray you will prosper both physically and spiritually during 2009.

