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VOLUME 87 FEBRUARY 2014 QUENCHING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Greetings friends, family, and fellow saints!

We thank God for you and pray that His light, love, and life are filling your cup to overflowing!

Let me begin this month's Living Logos by giving you an update on our Sunday Afternoon Fellowship that we began back in November of 2012...

When the Lord placed on our hearts to begin these Sunday gatherings, we had a vague idea of what might transpire, but were certainly unaware of what the full ramification was of us holding these meetings. And, friends, the results have been great!

First of all, Living Logos Ministries has met and got connected with some absolutely wonderful people! New fellowship has transpired. New relationships have been established. And a lot of great ministry has occurred.

For instance, a young girl who came with her mother to one of our meetings came up after the service to receive prayer for 48 food allergies that she had. Her body was obviously not able to cope with much of anything. Well, we laid hands on her, spoke to her body, and when they left that evening, she told her mother that she wanted a milkshake. And, I am proud to report that, praise be unto God, she had no problems with that milkshake that night and even ate some potato salad the next day. Amen! Glory be to God for manifesting His will in the life of one of His precious children!

But although we have had those who have received many blessings such as this, what blesses me the most is the transformation that I see taking place in hearts through God's Holy Word!

Friends, this is the most enduring and everlasting change that can take place in our lives- the change that occurs through the Word of God. Why? Because His Word endures forever! It is an incorruptible seed! It produces change from the inside out- which makes it more unshakeable, incorruptible, and eternal.

Many miss this and try and change from the outside in. They try and use miracles and healings to effect change in people's lives. But without a strong foundation in God's truth, even those natural blessings we receive can be lost. This is why you hear of people who are genuinely and supernaturally touched by the healing hands of God losing their healing after just a short time. It is because their healing was never based upon the solid certainty of God's will, which is His Word.

Friends, we need the inspired truth of God's Word spoken into our lives and then we need to just simply receive it into our hearts. After this, it does the rest! That seed will spring up in our hearts and produce the fruit that it is designed to produce. Thank you Lord for your everlasting Word that has the power to save our souls!

So God is doing some great things in our group and we are thrilled to see the Lord taking Living Logos Ministries in the direction He is- in order that we might play a part in impacting the middle Georgia region for many years to come.

Well, for the past several months in our Sunday Afternoon Fellowship, we have camped on one specific subject found in God's Word- the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Friends, this particular subject- although abused and misused in many different circles- is absolutely vital for us to understand. In fact, the Lord told us in 1 Corinthians 12:1 that He does not want us ignorant concerning this subject. Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to this topic, not in order to just grow in more head knowledge, but in order to grow in an experiential knowledge that none can deny.

So that is what we have recently endeavored to do on Sunday afternoons- grow in our hunger for the gifts of the Spirit and, subsequently, in our experience of them.

We began talking about the keys to flowing in the signs that are supposed to follow the believer- talking about how it is faith and faith alone that enables the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself through us, how condemnation is the number one reason why the majority of the church fails to be used in the gifts, and how the phrase "practice makes perfect" is certainly applicable to letting the Holy Spirit flow through us. (For more on that last statement, see Living Logos, volume 84, entitled "The Key to Multiplying Your Talents") We then moved into 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and are currently going through verses 1-8 where Paul gives His explanation of the 9 different gifts of the Spirit.

Well, in my preparation for one of these messages, the Lord led me over to 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 and dropped into my heart a revelation of what it means to quench the Spirit. So I wanted to share this truth with you as well because, friends, understanding this truth is absolutely vital to seeing more of a manifestation of the Spirit in our lives. So let's jump right in, shall we?

WHAT IS QUENCHING THE SPIRIT?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 the Apostle Paul said, "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies."

How many of you have heard sermons on quenching the Spirit? And in these messages, how many of you have heard that it is our sin, failures, and shortcomings that quench the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Well, I am here to tell you that our sin and other mistakes that we make are absolutely, positively not what quench the Spirit! Someone might say, "How can you be so sure, Trey?" I can affirmatively say this because if problems in the Lord's church are what quenches the Spirit, then how can you explain the manifestation of the Spirit that we read was happening in the church of Corinth? Paul said that this church was full of divisions, strife, and carnality! This church even used the Lord's Supper as an occasion for the flesh! On top of that, they even had one of their members who was having an affair with his mother in law! Let me tell you- this church was full of sin and full of problems; yet they had so many manifestations of the Spirit in their gatherings that the Apostle Paul had to tell them to do all things decently and in order! So evidently sin was not and is not what quenches the gifts of the Spirit in our churches, meetings, and our own lives. Can you see this?

So what did Paul mean when he exhorted this group of New Testament believers not to quench the Spirit? Well, to find the answer to this question, we must first define the word "quench"...

The word “quench” literally means to dampen a flame or to pour water on a fire of some sort. In other words, this word “quench” is a reference to the extinguishing of a fire. This is important to understand because time and time again in the Scriptures, we see the Holy Spirit typified as fire.

Didn't John the Baptist, in referring to Jesus, say that He would baptize us in the Holy Spirit and fire? When the Holy Spirit invaded the upper room in Acts chapter 2, didn't the Holy Spirit appear to them as tongues of fire? Yes, friends, the Holy Spirit is compared to fire time and time again in the Scriptures.

But what do you never see the Holy Spirit likened to? Ice! You never see the Holy Spirit referred to as ice or giving anyone chills! And why? It is because He stays on-fire- meaning He is a zealous God, full of fervency and passion! He wants to burn bright in our gatherings- manifesting Himself in different ways to bring passion, zeal, and excitement to His people!

I can assure you, my friends, if your meetings are dry and cold, the Holy Spirit is not being manifested in those meetings! Why? Because He is likened to fire and water, the exact opposite of the atmosphere of many churches today- cold and dry! When He is present, there is life, excitement, and a refreshing that is experienced by all who welcome Him!

Even in the Old Testament, when the hand of the Lord came upon God's people (symbolic of the Holy Spirit coming upon them), things happened! They shouted! They danced! They fought (victoriously, I might add)! They leaped over walls! They outran king's chariots! Hallelujah!

But someone will invariably say, “Well Trey, I don't agree with all of that wild-fire!” Well, I think we should do everything decently and in order as well, but not at the risk of having no manifestations of the Spirit of God either! As Brother Kenneth E Hagin used to say, “I'd rather have a little wild-fire than no fire at all!” To this statement, I give a hearty - AMEN!

But my point is that the Holy Spirit is likened to fire repeatedly in the Scriptures. So when Paul says to not quench the Spirit, he is referring to pouring water on the light and warmth that the Holy Spirit wills to manifest in our personal lives and in our corporate gatherings.

DESPISING THE GIFTS

So, again, how can we do this? How do we quench the Spirit? Well, just look at the next verse where the apostle of faith continues on with the same thought... He goes on to say, “Do not despise prophecies.”

Friends, I am here to tell you that the way that God's people dampen that flame of the Holy Spirit is when they choose to despise the gifts of the Spirit (such as prophecy)! In other words, **God's church quenches the Holy Spirit when they despise the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.** So you could even flip this statement around and say that when we quench the gifts of the Spirit, we are in effect, despising the Holy Spirit Himself. Now that brings this to a new light, doesn't it?

Let me give you an example: It would be like me, Shannon, and Levi knocking on your front door and you saying to me, “Trey, you can come in, but I don't want her or that boy of yours in my house.”

Friend, if you were to despise the presence of my wife and son like that, then you just despised me! And I can assure you, you certainly will not experience my presence in your home!

Likewise, many churches and believers out there think they can just pick and choose what manifestations of the Spirit they want. They think they have the choice of- "Well, Holy Spirit we want you here, but you leave that tongues stuff and that healing business on the front porch." Well, it just does not work that way, saints! You welcome His manifestations, or you reject Him!

Now thank God the Holy Spirit is not easily offended or vindictive! He is not, as so many in the church today believe, quick to fly away if anyone makes a false move. No, that is not his nature contrary to what you might have heard from the pulpit! And you better hope not, because you would be out of luck then too. Why? It is because the arrogant person who thinks that way doesn't have all their ducks in a row either like they think they do. Therefore, they wouldn't be entertaining the Holy Spirit either if He was as touchy and as easily offended as they think He is.

No, the Holy Spirit will manifest in our lives and churches to the degree that we invite Him to. He is not looking for reasons to not manifest Himself; He is actually looking for every way that He can manifest Himself! And if that means He is invited to work only during the altar call for salvation, He is happy to oblige. But those churches are not receiving the myriad of benefits that He has to offer; I can assure you!

ESTEEMING THE GIFTS

So let's flip this scenario for a minute... If we quench the Holy Spirit when we despise His gifts and manifestations, then how do you figure we actually can cause that flame to burn brighter? It must be by doing the opposite of despising them, correct?

Sure, we can actually fan that fire into a flame! As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to do just this in 2 Timothy 1:6 when he said, "stir up the gift that is within you..." The words "stir up" literally mean to "fan into a flame." So evidently there is a way to fan the gifts that are resident in us up into a flame- meaning, their manifestation will increase and the Holy Spirit is in demonstration!

So, again, how do we fan into a flame the manifestations of the Spirit? Well, as I was studying for this, the Lord showed me that the answer to this question is found in 1 Samuel 2:30. So let's take a look at this powerful passage of Scripture...

Now, first of all, the context of this verse is when the man of God spoke to Eli concerning his sons who were mishandling their God given position as ministers. Eli had failed to do what was right when he was privy of their sinful acts. So God sent this man of God to him to speak several things into his life which includes the truth I want us to look at in 1 Samuel 2:30...

In verse 30 we see the Lord saying to Eli, "I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.'" Saints, this is a powerful truth!

Notice, first of all, how the Lord said to Eli that those who honor Him, He will honor. In other words,

what the Lord was saying was that when God's people choose to honor Him, honor is returned unto them in like manner.

You see, in this case, the opposite occurred... Eli chose to keep his sons in their position of honor, even when he knew that they were causing harm to the people of God. Therefore, he was honoring his sons more than he was honoring the Lord.

But now notice the second half of the Lord's statement to Eli... He said, "and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."

Now when we think of despising something, we usually think of being consciously and even aggressively against something, don't we? In other words, we think of "despising" something as hating or disdainning it. But I want you to open your mind up to another way of looking at this word... From God's perspective, He does not look at despising Him as just being actively against Him; He looks at it as simply lightly esteeming Him. Let me explain...

You see, if in 1 Samuel 2:30 the Lord said that those who honor Him, He will honor, then shouldn't it be also understood that the next half of that statement will be following the same pattern? In other words, when the Lord went on to say that those who despise Him shall be lightly esteemed, shouldn't we conclude that to despise something must be synonymous with lightly esteeming it? It would violate the laws of Scriptural interpretation to think otherwise.

JACOB AND ESAU

So could "despising" something really be as casual as "lightly esteeming" it? Sure! Are we not told that Esau despised his birthright (see Genesis 25:34)? Now we have no record of him actually hating or being against his birthright. But what do we have the record of? We see in Genesis chapter 25 how he "lightly esteemed" his birthright when he chose a bowl of soup over it. You see, he was not necessarily against his birthright; he simply did not value it to the degree that he should have- as more precious than that measly meal that his flesh lusted after!

And this was ultimately why God chose Jacob over Esau... It was because one valued and honored God's gift and the other lightly esteemed it. This is why we need to continuously ask ourselves the question: What do I honor and what do I value most? Esau showed what he valued most through this one incident. Likewise, Jacob showed what He esteemed and valued when he went to lengths that he did to obtain, not only the birthright, but also the blessing!

So now let's look at this from the perspective of 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 because, if you will recall, we see this same terminology being used there...

Notice again that Paul said not to "despise" prophecies to the church of Thessalonica... So, as we just learned, for one to "despise" prophecies does not mean that they hate the manifestations of the Spirit or are actively against the gifts of the Spirit being in operation; this can also refer to those who just simply lightly esteem the gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Wow! Now that just added a lot more of the church to the pool, didn't it?

Saints, I can assure you that the reason the Holy Spirit is quenched in many different churches,

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gatherings, and Christian homes is because these believers are lightly esteeming His manifestations! In other words, they are not placing value upon Him and they are not honoring Him- particularly the ways in which He manifests in our midst!

Friends, we need to honor Him, and not just honor Him in the way of respecting Him, but also honor Him in actively and aggressively seeking Him because we truly value Him! Friends, we need to be more like Jacob who was hungry for the blessing and birthright, and less like Esau who placed more value on carnal things.

This is why the Apostle Paul exhorted the church of Corinth twice in the book of 1st Corinthians to “earnestly desire the best gifts” and to “desire” that they may prophesy (see 1 Corinthians 12:31 & 14:1)!

Does “earnestly desiring” the gifts of the Spirit make a difference? Apparently it does! For why would he tell us to desire them if in the desire of them was not found more of the manifestation of them?

This is the key to seeing more of the gifts of the Spirit manifested in our churches, gatherings, meetings, and in our everyday life also... It is simply in getting hungry for the gifts! To earnestly desire them like we hunger for our next meal! To seek them as for precious jewels! For God has promised that when we seek for the things of the Spirit with our whole heart, we will find them!

Saints, let's get hungry for the Holy Spirit! Let's not let a day go by where we do not say, “Welcome Holy Spirit!” And not just welcoming Him, but welcoming the wife and kids as well ☺ (i.e. His gifts and His fruit)!

Holy Spirit, you are welcome in my life and ministry! And, by all means, bring the whole kit and caboodle with you! Bring the whole family! I am hungry to not just experience communion with you, but also to experience communion with your gifts and with your fruit! I want it all! Amen!

Maranatha!

Victoriously,

