

**Introduction:**

- I want to minister to you the Word of God on welcoming the Holy Spirit. It is common phrase in the church today particularly among Spirit filled churches. But I am not sure we really know what that means.
  - *"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."* (John 7:37-39, NKJV)
  - *"And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.' 'I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."* (John 1:33-34, NKJV)

**1. Welcoming His Presence Means**

- A. We Must Speak as He has Spoken and to Think as He Thinks.
- B. We want God movement in our lives. You are here, I am trusting because you want God movement in your life. This gathering helps to support that. So you come to hear the proclaimed Word of God. You want to be a better believer, better husband, better parent. To do so means we must think and speak more like God each week.
- C. There is a prayer we pray often here at Freedom. "Lord open the heavens! Give us an open heaven." It is a prayer for our city and county. It is a good prayer. But let me challenge us a bit today.
  - i. Open heavens-when you pray for what you have you never really see the joy of answered prayer. If we do not get our joy from breakthroughs in prayer then we get our joy from the discipline of prayer. When that happens we begin to celebrate form rather than breakthrough, we celebrate form rather than substance. This then becomes the open door for religion. And religion is sure death. Jesus had this to day about joy in prayer.
  - ii. *"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."* (John 16:23-24, NKJV)
  - iii. Joy is a priceless heavenly commodity. It is the reward of our praying. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. (Heb 12:2) Joy is what the Father gave Him for His obedience. God the Father wants us to experience joy in breakthrough prayer. When we ask for things we already have, that is prayer that will not be answered with joy. These are prayers prayed in ignorance because we are not aware of the Word or of who He is. For example: "Lord, be with us today." Jesus said, *"I will never leave you or forsake you"*. So, "Lord, be with us today" is a prayer He can't answer. So we end

up praying things that war against what we have already promised. So let there never be words that war against that—what he has promised. Which is better: to ask for something you already have or to walk in something you already know?

## 2. Jesus Hosted the Presence of the Holy Spirit

- A. A host is a person who receives and entertains guests. In biology it is the animal or plant on which an organism lives. In medicine it is the recipient of transplanted tissue or organ. Jesus hosted the Presence of the Holy Spirit. He received Him as a guest. The Holy Spirit lived in Jesus. Jesus was a picture of man being the recipient of God.
- B. We pray Is 64, rend the heavens and come down. - Rend the heavens and come down. This is what happened on Jesus baptism. The heavens were torn open and the Spirit came down. For most Christians a closed heavens exist between the ears. We live under an open heaven. We want open heavens over our cities. I want us to live under this open heaven, so filled with the Spirit that when we walk into a room the atmosphere changes.
- i. The spirit lives in ever believer but he does not rest upon every believer.
  - ii. The spirit came upon Jesus and remained. In the form of a dove.
  - iii. Doves are very nervous birds. We must walk with every step with the dove in mind. We want the Spirit to remain upon us so that as we go places things shift and change. *"What we are conscious of we are positioned to manifest. What we are aware of you are positioned to release. The ministry of the gospel is not a ministry of just words it is a ministry of releasing presence into the earth."* Bill Johnson
  - iv. le. Woman with the issue of blood: Jesus said, **"Who touched me?"** The Presence of God is substance not theory. He felt something leave him. What is it like to live with such awareness of Presence that you can tell when someone else has made a demand on it? It is the Holy Spirit that is the connection between Jesus and the Father.
  - v. le. Peter and James are walking to the temple. Peter: I don't have any money but I will give you what I have. He did not say I will pray for you. He had something that he knew he could give away. We take such small risks in prayer because we are ignorant of what we already have.
- C. Jesus said the Kingdom is within you. It is released with words, prophetic acts, etc. John 6:63 My words are spirit and life. Jesus is the word made flesh. But when He spoke the Word was made spirit. Word made flesh, word made spirit. Romans 14:17: The **Kingdom of God is righteousness peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** The Kingdom is in the Spirit! When words become spirit, the realms of Gods dominion are released over humanity. When we say what the Father is saying then we literally impart Presence through speech. The person of the Holy Spirit contains the realm of the Kingdom. When we say what the Father is saying we change the options of everyone who is hearing.
- i. Jesus carried the Presence. Peter carried the Presence. Stories began to grow and people said just get the sick close enough to the road that when Peters shadow passes over them they will be healed. Peter was walking with substance. Shadows have

no substance-Peter had Presence. Your shadow will always release what overshadows you.

- ii. Do not be pre occupied with what you don't have become aware of what you do have-an identity in Christ.
- iii. le. Another story: Paul's aprons. He had such Presence on him that the substance of the Presence got on His work cloths.
  - 1. The anointing flows through godly affections. Paul rebuked the Corinthians because of their carnality. It was restricting the movement of God. *You are restricted by your affections.* 2 Cor 6:12. They had the Spirit in them but He was not resting upon them.
  - 2. Jesus did so many miracles in 3.5 years that it was said of Him that if they were all recorded in books the world could not contain it. That is the Holy Spirit released through one man unquenched. That is the Presence on one person. Peter learned this and began ministering from that.
    - a. This makes me jealous for that! It makes my heart ache for this. And Jesus said, "Greater works than this shall you also do." Oh God, work something in me Lord that I can actually impart Presence.

### 3. We Must Host the Holy Spirit

#### A. Mt 10:7-13

- i. The assignment of the Lord is to: heal, cleanse, raise dead, cast out demons. He didn't say go pray for the sick. He said to heal them. And I hear people say, "We don't heal the sick. God does." Yes, I just wish he would have said that.
- ii. What do you do if someone does not get healed? Three responses:
  - 1. You just don't have it.
  - 2. Send them to the person with anointing
  - 3. Realize that God loves me enough to summon me into the secret place to feel the pain of those diseased and to get the anointing to heal them. God summoning me! Most of what we need in life will be brought to us but what you want you have to go get. Persistence, diligence, and how to get peace in the midst of confusion.

#### B. Faith comes from surrender, out of resting in God. Freely you received, freely give. The kingdom is within you. There is an unlimited resource that is within us.

- i. All ministry is actually imparting the person of the Spirit of Christ into the atmosphere or person. Freely you have received freely give.
- ii. Most people fast and pray to get an answer to a problem. We need to fast more to get into a lifestyle so we know who He is and who we are. That when we pray we have breakthrough and our joy is made full.

#### C. When you go into a house...Peace is the actually atmosphere of heaven. It comes in the form of a person. In our world peace is the absence of strife, division, noise, and war. In His world peace is the Presence of Someone! When we walk in his world we are com-

mission to speak and release His Presence into an atmosphere. We do this with words. If no one there wants it then take it back. We must learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

- i. There is a prophetic picture of this in Gen 8:6-ff:
  - 1. Dove with olive branch international symbol of faith.
  - 2. Gen 8, This is the prophetic picture of what Jesus taught in Mt 10. The Spirit of God changes everything.
- D. John - Jesus, in one act, summarizes his entire ministry. **As the Father sent me I now send you.** The first thing Jesus does He breaths on them the Holy Spirit. This is his first act! It wasn't: As the Father sent me so I send you. Preach to the crowds, heal the sick, etc. Everything he was about was all wrapped up in this one statement. When I was sent, I was sent with the Holy Spirit. So I now send you receive the Holy Spirit. First thing that disciples receive from Jesus is the Holy Spirit. We are to be filled to fullness of full with Him. Jesus found a place for the dove to rest!
- E. Find a place for the dove to rest! The Spirit of God is looking for tender hearts to rest upon.

**Conclusion:**

The Spirit is looking for a place to rest.

Your number one job is prepare a place for him to rest.