

LESSON 14

ACTIVITIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - I

Reading : *Psa. 104:10-30, Luke 4;1-18*

Memory verses : *2 Pet. 1:19-21*

Theme : *To learn about the extent and importance of the activities of the Holy Spirit and submit to Him totally.*

Introduction: What is God's purpose in the creation and redemption of man? (2 Thes. 2:14, 2 Cor. 3:18). God wants that man, His creation, should grow into the image of the Creator and regain his glory. Jesus Christ accomplished by His sacrifice on the cross, the

redemption of man who lost the glory of God because of sin. Holy Spirit is now doing the important ministry of leading man to salvation and back to the glory of God. Let us learn about the work of the Holy Spirit with prayer and submission.

I. IN THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY:

Holy Spirit was present in the beginning just as there was Word in the beginning. He participated in the creation of the Universe (Gen. 1:2, Job 33:4). All the living beings are sustained by the Holy Spirit (Psa. 104:10-14, 21, 27, 30).

II. DURING THE OLD TESTAMENT PERIOD:

1. Scriptures were not written by the will of man. They were spoken by man as commanded by God through the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:19-21, 2 Sam. 23:2). Prophets spoke and wrote messages given by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 1:4, Eze. 1:3, Heb. 1:1).
2. Holy Spirit used to reveal future events through His servants at different times. He told the prophets about the birth of Jesus Christ, His sufferings, resurrection, future glory, etc. (1 Pet. 1:10-12, Isa. 53, Psa. 22, Isa. 7:14, Psa. 16:10-11). He revealed to them events which would happen in Israel and other world powers (Dan. 4:18, 2:31-45, 7:27-28, Deut. 28:64, 30:4).
3. Holy Spirit gave messages to His people through His servants (2 Pet. 1:19-21, 2 Chro. 15:1-2, Eze. 11:24).
4. We see the in filling of the Holy Spirit in individuals to perform certain assignments given by God. Aholiab and Bezaleel were given the Spirit to do the work of the Tabernacle (Exo. 31:3). Holy Spirit came upon Joseph (Gen. 41:38), Jephthah (Jud. 11:29), Samson (Jud. 14:6) and Saul (1 Sam. 11:6). They accomplished great things on those occasions. (This experience is different from the anointing by the Holy Spirit in New Testament days).

III. DURING THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST:

1. The birth of Jesus was by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35, Matt. 1:18).
2. Holy Spirit descended on Jesus visibly at the time of His baptism (Matt. 3:16, Mark 1:10).
3. Jesus was led into the wilderness by Holy Spirit (Matt. 4:1, Mark

- 1:12, Luke 4:1). God's children are also led by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14).
4. Jesus Christ ministered with the power of the Holy Spirit. He preached and healed the sick with the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:4-18, Acts 10:38). Is our ministry with the power of the Holy Spirit?
 5. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was with the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11). Our resurrection will also be with the power of the Holy Spirit.

IV. IN THE 'CHURCH AGE':

The work of the Holy Spirit during this period of the Church is truly wonderful. The book of 'Acts of the Apostles' is in reality a record of the work of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles. The work which began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1) was in fulfillment of the promises of God given through Joel and Jesus Christ. It will continue till the end of the 'Church Age' (Joel 2:28, 29), John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:13, Acts 1:5,8). During this period, the mission of the Holy Spirit is to lift up Jesus Christ and prepare a faultless and undefiled Bride (Church) for Him. In this context let us study an incident from the Old Testament.

THE MARRIAGE OF ISAAC (Gen. 24):

Abraham sends his trusted steward, Elizar, to find a bride for his son, Isaac. Elizar brings Rebecca and gives her as bride to Isaac. In this incident, Abraham stands as a shadow of Father God, Isaac stands for Jesus Christ and Elizar stands for Holy Spirit. Let us consider the similarities:

1. As Eliazar was the trusted steward of Abraham, Holy Spirit is the Counsellor of Father God (John 14:16, 26).
2. Holy Spirit is deputed like Elizar to find and prepare a bride (Eph. 5:26, 27). His work began on the day of Pentecost when 3000 people were added to the church (Acts 2:41).
3. Eliazar was sent for a bride after Isaac was offered on the altar. Holy Spirit came down to earth after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Gen. 22:1-2, Acts 2:1-2).
4. Eliazar was sent to the kinsmen of Abraham (Gen. 24:4): Holy Spirit came down to 120 people who loved and followed Jesus Christ (Acts 1:12-15, 2:1).

5. Eliazar talked about Isaac and not about himself (Gen. 24:35-38). Holy Spirit lifts up the name of Jesus Christ and does not speak about Himself (John 16:13-14).
6. As Eliazar was quick to finish his job, Holy Spirit is quickly completing His work (Gen. 24:33, 56, Acts 2:41).
7. Rebekah submitted herself to the words of Eliazar. Likewise, those who are saved and join the fellowship of the church, listen to the words of the Holy Spirit (Gen. 24:58, Acts 2:41). Rebekah decides to go with Eliazar without waiting to consult with her parents or other relatives. Apostle Paul says that he submitted himself to the Holy Spirit without conferring with flesh and blood (Gal. 1:16).
8. Rebekah accepts gladly the gifts brought by Eliazar from the house of Isaac (Gen. 24:22, 30, 53). Holy Spirit gives rich gifts from the resources of God (Psa. 45:13-14, Eph. 4:7-8, 1 Cor. 12:4-10).
9. Rebekah separates herself from her relatives for Isaac. The church should separate herself from the world for Christ (Gen. 24:58-59, 2 Cor. 6:14-17, Acts 2:40).
10. Rebekah receives more information about Isaac on her journey with Eliazar. The church also grows in the knowledge of Christ (Eph. 3:16-19).
11. Eliazar takes Rebekah to the house of Abraham. Isaac receives Rebekah outside in the field and takes her to his house. At the end of the 'church age', Holy Spirit will take the church to heaven and Jesus Christ will come down in mid air and receive His bride (Gen. 24:63-67, 1 Thess. 4:16-17, Rev. 19:6-8). Let us wait for the blessed day when we can dwell with our Lord in heaven. Let us submit to the Holy Spirit as He is preparing the church for that blessed day.

Questions

1. What is the main objective of the ministry of Holy Spirit in the Church Age?
2. What was the work of the Holy Spirit in the beginning of eternity?
3. In what ways did the Holy Spirit work in the Old Testament period?
4. Prove that the Holy Spirit was active during the public ministry of Jesus Christ.
5. Compare the activities of the Holy Spirit during the Church Age with the events connected with the marriage of Isaac.

