

INDWELLING OF GOD SERIES

THE INWORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named that He will grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend what is the width, the length, the depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3: 14-21)

Here Paul is praying in regard to the indwelling of Christ Jesus in the hearts of the Ephesians. They were already born again. They were already baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has already lived in their hearts. They have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and were tongue talking, demon chasing, hand laying Christians. So here Paul is still praying that Christ may dwell in their hearts.

Christ's presence in our lives is in different measures. There are different degrees of His presence, which He puts in our hearts. In praying for these Christians there are three things that we want to take note.

No.1 is in verse 16 Paul says that *God may grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.* There is an inworking of the Holy Spirit in our spirit, as much as there is an outworking. Unless He works in you, He cannot work out through you. The Holy Spirit can only work out through you in proportion to the measure that He has worked in to you. Only what has been worked in to you can be worked out through you. Paul talks about the strengthening. He says that this is a continual process. Our inner man continues to fellowship with the Holy Spirit and receives nourishment from the Spirit. You see in No. 1 the work of the Spirit in our spirit, our inner man.

No. 2 it says that *Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*. Apparently whatever the Holy Spirit has done or is doing in our inner man will affect the presence and the indwelling of Christ in our life. The first thing is that you are strengthened so that Christ may dwell in your heart in a fuller and a greater measure. There are different proportions of Christ dwelling in our hearts.

And No 3 the love that is established in our life. In verse 17 it says that *you being rooted and grounded in love*. The next three verses talk about love: how that we will comprehend with all the saints the love of God in a great degree. We can immediately find from these scriptures that it harmonizes with what we have been teaching so far: that the rooting and the grounding in the love of God is the same as rooting and grounding in the glory of God and the presence of God. So when Christ dwells in our hearts in a greater measure means that we are in the process of being rooted and grounded in love. When were you rooted and grounded in love? When Christ dwelt in your heart. The presence of God coming into our hearts is proportional to the love of God that is shed in our hearts. They are related together.

We want to understand how the Holy Spirit affects our inner man. How does He affect our inner man and what does He actually do?

Eph. 3 is related to John 14 and 15. Remember the three points. The first is the Holy Spirit working inside us. The second point is Christ dwelling in us and the third point is we are established in love, rooted and grounded in love. These are the three things that go together in Eph. 3.

Lets look at John 14 Jesus Christ is speaking about the indwelling of God coming to believers. He introduces the subject in John 14 in referring to Himself. He said to the disciples, *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."* (John 14: 7) And one of His disciples who didn't understand the statement was Philip, who asked Him in John 14: 8, *"Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."* See Jesus was talking to them about the Father and said, *"You have seen the Father. You know Me, you know the Father."* Then one of them said, *"Show us the Father."* And Jesus expressed astonishment and surprise. He said, *"Have I have been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?"* After three years with you, you are still asking, 'Show us the Father.' "

But in His patience Jesus continued teaching and said, *"The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."* (John 14:10) So He begin to describe to them and said that everything He

has done thus far, everything that He has said, everything that He has demonstrated was due to the Father inside Him flowing out. There was the oneness of Jesus with His Father.

He didn't stop there. In verse 12 He said, *"Most assuredly I say to you He who believes in Me the works that I do, **he will do** also and greater works than this because I am going to my Father."* The works that I do he will do. It is strange that in the next two verses He talks about He Himself doing it. In verse 13 and 14, *"Whatever you ask in My name that **I will do**."* Then in verse 14, *"If you ask anything in My name **I will do it**."* In verse 12 He says, *"He who believes in Me, the works that I do **he will do**."* When He says, "He will do," that means the responsibility is on the believer to do it. Then in verse 13 and 14 He says, "I am the one doing it." That means it is His responsibility to do it. Now isn't that a contradiction? We are doing it. He is doing it.

Now how do we reconcile the two together? His dwelling in our life will do through us. There is cooperation there. He is emphasising on indwelling. Jesus Christ will give you all the direction you need to do whatever works. But the responsibility is for you to obey. He will not do it for you. The responsibility is on our life to receive it and to flow in that category. When you do your part, He will do His part.

The next three chapters as He talks about Himself is a further development of this emphasis that He is bringing to them. He says here in chapter 14 that He continued speaking in verse 16 about the Holy Spirit. And He described what the coming of the Holy Spirit will be like in verse 17, *The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

Firstly, Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit working in us. He goes into details to describe what it is like. Paul just mentioned that the Spirit strengthens our inner man. But Jesus describe that this working of the Holy Spirit in our life is in a manner that the world neither sees nor knows as it is in the invisible realm. You can't see the Holy Spirit. I don't know anyone who has ever seen the Holy Spirit. He remains invisible, He manifests Jesus and He glorifies the Father. The Holy Spirit works inside us and that it ties up with the first point of the inworking of the Holy Spirit in Eph. 3: 16, *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.*

Secondly, in Jn. 15 Jesus talks about He dwelling in us and we dwelling in

him in verse 4, *“Abide in Me and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me.”* That synchronizes with that second point in Ephesians where the inworking of the Holy Spirit brings about an indwelling presence of Christ in our lives. There is a co-relation between the two. Let me give you scriptures for relating the two together.

In John 14:21, *“He who has My commandment and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”* So Jesus talks about His commandments. And even when He mentioned about the Holy Spirit dwelling in our lives, He gives the Holy Spirit a title. There are many titles that the Holy Spirit carries. Jesus is not just mentioning a title for the sake of mentioning. Jesus mentioned the title of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth in particular in reference to the way the Holy Spirit dwells inside us. See in John 14:17, *“The Spirit of truth...dwells with you and will be in you.”*

And in John 15 when Jesus talked about abiding in Him, He describes how it will happen in John 15:7, *“If you abide in Me and My word abide in you.”* Jesus is not talking about personally coming in person to dwell in you since He is at the right hand of God. But Jesus Christ will send His presence by His Spirit and by His Word into your life. And when His Word comes and dwells in your life, that is the presence of God.

If you understand the glory of God, you would understand that the glory of God, the love of God, the peace of God, the goodness of God, the compassion of God and the Word of God are related together. He puts a portion of His Word into us. Don't think of the Word as just black words printed on white paper. In the bible the Word is *logos*. It is a living substance and material that can be transmitted. By itself it has life. Even today all substances are going through a process of decay. However the Word of God is eternal. You could live the Word of God for a billion years and it would still contain that same power and same substance of life as when it first came forth.

The bible says in Heb. 4:12 the word of God is living, it has power and it is filled with life. For that reason when God speaks His Word, even though Jesus spoke some of those words nearly two thousands years ago, it still carries power in the spirit realm. There is life that is being released in the Word. The bible refers to Word not just as sounds. The apostle John wrote in 1 Jn. 1:1, *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life.* Jesus is regarded as a living Word.

Having put that concept forth, the degree of the dwelling of God in our life is in proportion to the measure of His Word in our lives. Jesus had the fullness of God in His life. He was the Word made flesh. The purpose of God is that all of us become the Word made flesh. The Spirit of truth, which is the Spirit of the Word, imparts into our life the revelation of the Word, measure upon measure. He begins to transform our thinking. He has already transformed our spirit. He is now transforming our soul and He wants to transform our body until our spirit, soul and body flows in His Word. In this way, Jesus will dwell in us through His Word. He interchanges Himself with the Word. Then you can understand how Jesus can dwell in different measures. This ties up with the second point in Eph. 3: 17, *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*. Romans 10: 17 tells us, *So then faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*.

And No. 3 having dwelt in our lives Jesus made another statement in Jn.15:9-10, *“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love.”* Jesus tells us that if you want to abide in Him and let Him abide in you, the third point has to come in – His love. Abiding in His Word and abiding in His love flow together. We see that the three points mentioned in the gospel of John 14 and 15 are also mentioned in Eph. 3. No. 1 the Holy Spirit working in our inner man. No.2 the indwelling of Christ. No. 3 love. And here in John 14 we see No. 1 the Spirit indwelling in our life working inside us. No 2 the Lord Jesus Christ indwelling in our lives by His Word. No.3, His love working in our lives. They are the same Holy Spirit speaking forth through His written Word.

Now lets look with understanding to see how the Holy Spirit does the first work of inworking in our spirit since this is important. If the Spirit could work in our life and strengthened our spirit man, Christ will dwell in a greater measure. And the love of God will increase in a greater measure. It is very important. How do we go about that? How does the Spirit work in our inner man?

The key is given in John 14 when Jesus calls the Spirit the Spirit of truth. What is truth? To some people truth is information. After some time they discovered that not all information are facts. And further along the line, they found out that they actually had misinformation. Then they discovered later that what they considered truth three or four years ago, was no more truth. Some people say that truth is a fact. Then when we tell them there is a fact that sickness is present but the truth is that it does not belong to you, we find that the fact sometimes conflict with the truth. If truth is just a fact, you have to define what the word *fact* means. If the

word *fact* means information that is received through sense knowledge, then your definition of truth is limited by your senses. Truth goes beyond the natural realm. In the educational system that is established in this world truth and fact are treated as equals. Conclusions based on the study of facts and phenomena become what are called acceptable truth. The only problem is that sometimes five years later somebody comes out with a re-arrangement of the facts and phenomena and say actually the earlier conclusion was misleading.

So where is truth? Truth comes to you as a revelation. Let me illustrate something in the natural. For example when man first recognised the fact that the earth revolves round the sun, it was a brand new revelation for them in the natural sense. It was a natural revelation. Remember that all truths have fact but not all facts have truth. The truth will always be substantiated by facts. But what is so called, "fact" may not be truth. So it was a natural revelation for men. It was astounding to them to know that the earth goes round the sun. Everybody thought that the earth goes round the sun. Why? They based it on their sense knowledge and perception. Everyday when they wake up they see the sun moving across the sky. Therefore they concluded that the sun moves round the earth. What was wrong with their observation? Their observations were limited by their experimental ability. In other words, they were limited here. They couldn't travel to outer space and have a look. So they are basing their conclusions on their perception. They could perceive the sun moving. But you can't perceive yourself moving. So they took the moving of the sun around the earth as a fact. I don't know for how many years men believed that way until Copernicus came along and said that was not true. It is the earth that goes round the sun. And how did he conclude that? He concluded by mathematical calculations. He says that if the sun goes round the earth mathematically all the movement of the planets and stars will not co-ordinate. So he says the only way to harmonise with the mathematical calculations is when the earth is moving round the sun. The movement of the sun is only our perception. It is not really the sun moving around us but we are moving around the sun. So he says if the earth moves round the sun, then mathematically things fall into place. Now that shows what I call a natural revelation.

Think about the many things in natural life you discovered. They become like revelation to you. And those revelations changed your life. When they first discovered that the earth goes round the sun, nobody was very interested at all since they could not see how that fact could help them. In fact they mobbed that poor guy. Some decades later somebody else said if what Copernicus said was true, then we could use the calculations to navigate our ship. We could calculate our

ship's position. We could calculate our position, north, south, east, west by the stars.

The Spirit of truth will dwell in your life Jn. 14:17. Now what does the Spirit of truth bring? Let me put it this way. If I say the spirit of joy will come on you, what will be its effect? Joy. Wouldn't that be right? If I say that the spirit of love will come upon you, what will happen? Love will be there in your heart. See the Spirit produces after its kind. And on the reverse it is also the same. A spirit of blindness, a demon of blindness produces blindness. Or a spirit of confusion produces confusion. It produces after its kind.

Now the Holy Spirit is one person who has many attributes. And Jesus particularly chose the attribute of the Spirit of truth to relate to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our life. If the Spirit of love produces love, if the Spirit of joy produces joy, then the Spirit of truth produces revelations. Therefore when Jesus said the Spirit of truth will dwell in our life, one of the things that the Spirit of truth will come in and do straight away is to give you revelations. He will start talking to you. He will give you revelations. And those revelations will cause an indwelling of God in your life to grow in a greater measure.

Lets see if that is exactly what Jesus meant. In Jn.14: 17, *the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.* Then verse 26, *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.* Now what is that revelation? That is the Spirit of truth pouring into our lives revelations. Jn.16:13 *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; (That means natural truth and spiritual truth) for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

Lets apply that to Eph. 3. That Holy Spirit will strengthen your inner man. You know how He strengthens you? He gives you revelations. Revelations strengthen you. The Spirit of truth brings truth.

Let me prove it from the bible. Matt. 16 Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" And they gave all kinds of answers. He turns around and asked, "But who do you say that I am?" Then Peter said, "You are the Christ the Son of the Living God." Look at what Jesus said in Matt. 16:17-19, *"Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and*

whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." He speaks about the blessings that will come. Peter received a blessing.

I would dare say that a revelation brings authority. And spiritual authority is based on revelation. Let me illustrate a case that you may be familiar with. Suppose that a church had been in existence for ten years. The good old guardians of the faith have been in the church since the physical foundation of the church. The only revelations they have are some revelation truths discovered by the founder of their church, like Martin Luther or John Wesley. They have what I call an organizational authority in that church. But the young people started coming up and the youngest start growing. They reached a stage if the elders themselves do not grow in spiritual revelations, the younger ones will move into revelations that the elders have not received. So those new ones start moving into revelations that these older guys don't know about. So these older people will say, "That's not from God, that's the devil. That cannot be from God. If God wants to say anything, He will talk to me." Now this is where the problem is. The spiritual revelations of the new ones are above the old ones. And the elders had natural authority but no spiritual revelation. The new ones had spiritual revelations. And usually spiritual revelations carry spiritual authority. So you have a problem there. Spiritual authority flows from revelation. These older people in the church should have supposedly "spiritual authority." But they don't have the spiritual revelation to qualify them for that authority. So when they make statements about certain things, they don't have the revelation behind it. So their statements no longer carry a spiritual authority. Instead their statements only carry a natural ecclesiastical authority. The church will begin to feel a burden because the people who have the spiritual revelation should be the ones who are in spiritual authority. For that reason in any church the pastor or the leaders of the church are supposed to grow further and ahead in revelation than the younger ones. That would be the case in a perfect church. So that as the new people grow in the Lord in that church, the elders would know how to guide them to grow even more. They are supposed to be ahead in revelation. Revelation gives you spiritual authority.

Now here is a problem we have to be very careful about. Sometimes you have a revelation that actually equips you and qualifies you for spiritual authority in those areas. But you don't have the ecclesiastical authority yet. What do you do? You wait on God. You don't start a rebellion and manifest spiritual pride by saying, "I know more about you. It is time you guys resign and make way for us younger ones." You wait on God's timing. Samuel the prophet had spiritual revelation far

above Eli the priest. But Samuel didn't come and topple Eli. He waited on God. Anyone who exercises church authority but who has stopped growing in spiritual revelation will not last long. David had more revelations than king Saul. Actually king Saul lost the kingly anointing by his disobedience. But Saul's natural kingdom still continued for some time. David abides his time. He waited for God to promote him. If you have a spiritual revelation, watch it. Sooner or later that spiritual revelation will bring you into a position of authority.

But if you have no spiritual revelation, don't hope for it. You don't reach into God's kingdom of spiritual authority by campaigning or by politicking. In fact in heaven there is no political party. They don't even take the vote. Why should they? They could read people's mind. In heaven we know what each other think. The moment you think somebody else will know what you think. God reserved it for heaven because in heaven we will be perfected. In heaven, all of us would have the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ would even inspire what you think in heaven. On this earth imperfection reigns.

So revelations bring a strengthening of the presence of Christ in your life. And it is supposed to be the presence of Christ in your life that draws people to you and to your ministry. The presence of Christ draws people to be ministered by you in the home, over the phone, in the car parks, in hospitals. It is the presence of Christ in your life that people are drawing from. The spiritual revelation you receive brings forth spiritual authority and the presence of God in your life. Now we understand how the inner working of strengthening takes place. It takes place by spiritual revelation.

The Spirit of truth worked mightily in Paul's life. The key in Paul's life was revelation. Where did Paul get the authority to overtake all the other apostles? It was not his education. In fact he considered all his education and worldly position as garbage. One thing he always relied on was divine revelation. He says in Gal.1: 11-12 *But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.* See the revelations that Paul carried gave him the spiritual authority to do something that he did in his life. It was the revelations he carry that brought him into the spiritual authority that he was. He definitely had spiritual authority. He wrote one third of the New Testament. What did he have? He had revelations. Revelations have been granted to him. Revelation is the unfolding of truth to us. When truth is unfolded to you it is revelation. There is so much truth that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth by unfolding it to us a little bit at a time. We can't take all His revelations at one time. Our mind will blow

out. In fact when you have only one revelation, it may take you one whole year to saturate it into you. The Holy Spirit works in our life by strengthening us with His revelations.

Turn to Gal. 1:16 *To reveal His Son in me, that I may preach Him among the Gentiles. I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.* Lets look at chapter 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer that I lived but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* He says I live by faith. Now you tie that up to the book of Eph.3:17 that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith

Do you notice that every time Paul talks about the indwelling of God, he talks about the working of faith? What is faith? Where does faith comes from? Faith comes from the Word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. Didn't Jesus said, "Abide in Me and let My Word abide in you"? The degree of His presence in your life will be proportional to His Word in your life. And the degree and the proportion of His Word in your life will be the degree and proportion of faith working in you. His Word is faith. And faith comes by hearing both from *logos* and *rhema*. Revelation harmonizes with the written Word. At the same time it is fresh from heaven. The indwelling of Christ is linked up to what you received every day in your life.

Every day when you get up in the morning, every day when you pray and seek God, the Spirit is revealing things to you. We are not supposed to be stagnant in our revelation where for ten years, twenty years, all we know is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are supposed to have daily revelations in our life. When I talk about revelation I am not talking about supernatural visitation. I am not talking about weird oddball kind of revelations that is against the Word of God. It definitely has to be in line with the written Word. Yet there are so many things in the written Word. Every revelation you receive does something to you.

Let me point to something that is happening in your life without you necessarily realising it. You have noticed that by sitting under good teaching and receiving revelation that the presence of God has gone stronger in your life. Good teachings strengthen your inner man. Bad teachings weaken you. Some people teach how big the devil is and about transference of evil spirits. You lay hand on a demon-possessed person and the demon runs on your hand. See these kinds of teaching produce weak Christians and fearful Christians. Instead of being conscious of the presence of God they become conscious of the demons. But the right teaching should produce the consciousness of the presence of Jesus. The true revelation of

God in the bible is to glorify Jesus not to glorify the devil.

And so by sitting under good teaching and revelation, you begin to receive revelation after revelation. After one year you look back and say, "I didn't realise I have grown. My Christian life has grown. I have received more strength. I have the presence of God." See all those things are happening all the time. But you have not figured it out how it was happening. Today we figure it out for you to show you how it was actually taking place. The revelations that are coming to you cause Christ to dwell in your life by faith. The revelations are causing an indwelling of Christ in your life in a greater measure.

For that reason I like to open myself to any new revelation in the body of Christ that somebody else may bring forth. Whether that somebody is unknown or well known, whether it is from the old or the young, the bible says not to despise prophecies. Acts 2: 17 says even your sons and daughter can even prophesy to you. Open yourself to receive revelation from God. Revelation will establish the presence of God in your life. The more revelations you have the more, the greater is the presence of God. The greater the presence of God, the greater is your spiritual authority to function and to walk on this earth. Revelation is the key.

Paul says that in the book of Eph.3: 3 *How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already)*. He talks about the mysteries that he wrote in a few words, his understanding in Christ. In verse 5, *which in other ages was not make known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets*. Revelation was what established the prophets and the apostles. And in Eph. 2:20 they are the foundation and Jesus is the chief cornerstone. Why are they the foundation? Because of the revelation they carry. If you are in a place of spiritual authority in the church supposedly, you must make sure you have the revelation to carry it out.

If you put someone in the church authority without the revelation, you are causing hurt in the body of Christ. That person will move without revelation and people cannot submit to anyone without revelation. Submission can be given easily to someone whom we recognized have the revelation. But it is very difficult to give submission to somebody who does not have the revelation, who you know may lead you blindly, like the blind leading the blind into the pit. And that is the reason why people struggle with submission. There are people with no revelation who sometimes say, "Submit to me." But how can we? If for example there is a particular type of sickness or disease on the body, we need someone in authority with the knowledge to identify and diagnose the sickness. Naturally the one who is

a qualified doctor would be the best person to diagnose it than any one of us in the natural. Then if the doctor has much background experience, we would respect his diagnosis even more. But if some quack doctor comes along without any medical training at all and says, "I think this is the problem," his statement has no weight or authority and we wouldn't want to submit to.

Now in the spiritual sense that is true. You need a spiritual revelation to bring people to submit to you. And submission is given not taken. You don't demand submission. When people see the revelation in your life, they will naturally submit to you. So Paul talks about the revelations the apostles and prophets are supposed to carry. If they don't carry that, they cannot demand submission. People will not submit to them. And it is right for people not to submit to them because they don't show forth the revelation. If you force people to submit to you when you don't have spiritual revelation, then your church has become an ordinary organization and a club.

Col.1: 26-27 The mysteries which has been hidden from ages and from generations but now has been revealed to His saints. (See it is the revelation that transforms.) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Verse 29, To this end I also labour striving according to His working which works in me mightily. How did the working work in him? Through revelation. Paul laboured with the working of the revelation that God granted to him. Without revelation, God's people perish. It is revelation that produces the inworking of God in your life.