

Reflect on this! Series 3



Holy Spirit

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DEDICATION

*This book is dedicated to the
Honor, glory and adoration
of*

GOD ALMIGHTY

also to

*the Beloved of the Lord
who seeks after truth:
The truth shall set you free, Amen*

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INTRODUCTION

There are many spirits mentioned in the Bible with different understanding that is determined by the context of the passage. All the spiritual forces that do not manifest physically are generally refer to as spirit. There are evil spirits and demonic forces or unclean spirits are in class of these evil spirits and their evil activities still persist even in our own time. “...and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs.” (*Mark 5:13*) In some cases, angels are referred to as spirits: “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” (*Hebrew 1:14*) However, there is only one Spirit that stands out distinctively because of His personality, power and divinity. He is known as Holy Spirit because He is the Spirit of God and holy is the Lord of Hosts. He is also known and addressed as Holy Ghost, the Comforter and the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit is the object of our discussion in this book and I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will prepare your mind as you read this book, Amen.

CHAPTER

Activities of Holy Spirit In the Old Testament

1

Creation was a mystery. The awesome creation of the entire universe was conceived in the mind of Almighty God. The scripture revealed that the Earth was shapeless and void. It was an empty vacuum that was enfolded with darkness. The only active supernatural being recorded in the Bible was the Spirit of God that was hovering over the water. *“And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water.” (Genesis 1:2)* There is an inseparable power of the Holy Spirit that manifests in the word of God at the beginning of creation. The divine intention of God always manifests according to His spoken words. Only Holy Spirit who knows the mind of God can decipher the purposeful intention of God, interpret His spoken words and transform it to reflect the awesome magnitude and precise specification of His divine intention. The Spirit of God is the divine power of Almighty God that transforms His spoken words of into the awesome beauty of creation.

Light was the first creation and it revealed the holy nature and divine ability of the Spirit of God. “Let there be light,” and instantly there was light. Accordingly, the power of the Spirit of God made a difference in the Creation. The light came into existence to make a

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remarkable difference. The presence of light overwhelmed and overpowered darkness to reveal the hidden ugliness of darkness. The light revealed the shapelessness of the earth. God began to shape the earth in the manifold of His thoughtfulness that manifested in the beauty of creation. Throughout the rest of the work of creation, the activities of the Holy Spirit became obscured and were not mentioned much in the Bible. Nevertheless, He was the divine architect that worked behind the curtains in transforming the beautiful intentions of God into the complex mystery called universe. The heavenly bodies—sun, moon and stars are displaying the glory of God in the firmament. The animals in the meadow, the beauty of vegetation, the hills and the valleys and the ever changing seasons of the year and so many uncountable creatures are the evidence of the mysteries of creation. The universe is awesome in size and it reveals the unfathomable wisdom of Almighty God.

The Holy Spirit was present at the planning stage of creation of man. When God dialogued in Genesis and said, “... *Let us make man in our image, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, over every creeping things that creepeth upon the earth.*” (*Genesis 1:26*) the key words, ‘let us,’ ‘our image’ in the passage indicated that He was conversing with, at least, someone. Although the Trinity had not been revealed to man at this point, but obviously, Holy Spirit was one of the Supreme Being that God was

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conversing with at this point. It was not until we discovered in the book of John that we realize that Jesus Christ, the Word of God, was with God at the beginning of creation. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God... Through him all this were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” (John 1:1-3)* It is also interesting to note that the glorious intention of God in His divine utterance, *“Let us make man in our image,”* therefore means that, every man on the surface of the earth possesses the resemblance of the attributes of God the Father, attributes of the Son, Jesus Christ and attributes of the Holy Spirit because we are created in image of the three God Head.

Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the Trinity (Three God in One). The doctrine of Trinity is one of the difficult topics among Christians. Some schools of thought say, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one while another school is of the opinion that the God-heads are separate and distinct personalities. Whatever may be the opinion of these various schools of thought is just like a tiny island of our differences compare with the vast oceans of what our common believe about God is centered on. Simplicity of the awesome relationship of the God Heads is true and real. It is not an issue of debate, it is a matter of believe. Among in the list of our common belief about God is the fact that He is an omnipotent—all powerful, invisible, unstoppable and supreme God. He is also an omnipresent God who can manifest at many places at the same time, in anywhere and in any form He pleases.

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There are passages in the Bible that implicitly point to the inseparableness of God. One such is found in Deuteronomy 6:4 *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.”* In Isaiah 44:6 the scripture says, *“Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”* There are also passages where the three God-heads appear separately. A case in point was during the baptism of Jesus Christ. The distinct personalities of the three God-heads – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit – manifested separately at the same time. Holy Spirit manifested as a dove to witness the event. God the Father also manifested during the baptism with an affirmative endorsement, *“Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”* (Luke 3:22) You will understand the distinct personalities of the Trinity in this event, from the following simple illustration: During an important event in your lifetime, (like a wedding) the important people in your life, such as your immediate family, will come together to witness the occasion and celebrate with you. The same was the reason for the manifestation of the presence of the Father and Holy Spirit, at the baptism of Jesus Christ. But our interest in this book is mainly about the reality of Holy Spirit and the manifestation of His power among humanity.

Let us refresh our memory. The primary reason God created man in His image and likeness was that we may have dominion over all His creatures. (Genesis 1:26)

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The interest of God concerning humanity is very deep and His love for man is everlasting because man was created in the image of God and also because of the responsibility of dominion He assigned to humanity. God never violated His own laws. Regardless of His closeness to humanity, and His unchallengeable power and authority over mankind, He never intervenes in the affairs of man without the knowledge of the chosen ones. *"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."* (Amos 3:7) Most of the time He usually stirs the hearts of His servants to do His blessed will through the power of Holy Spirit. In every generation, there exists a divine hand of God that continues to manifest among mankind to guide us and institute righteous judgment among humanity. In the past, the Spirit of God came upon man, executed the plan of God and returned into His realm in Heaven until Jesus Christ prayed for the permanence presence of Holy Spirit for mankind.

The great servants of God and the prophets mentioned in the Bible were all ordinary men like us today. What made difference in their lives was the power of Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit was the supernatural being manifesting in the life of the old prophets of God that worked wonders in their lives and therefore caused them to make a remarkable difference and a tremendous impact during their generations. Whenever these servants of God opened their mouths to talk, they talked as the Holy Spirit quickened them and they became God's mouthpiece to reveal the hidden work of sin and

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to pronounce judgment upon disobedience. The prophets were empowered by the Holy Spirit to reveal the deep secret of things that are completely obscure to humanity. They spoke like oracles of God. Whenever they saw anything, they saw it from the perspective of God because of the quickening of the Holy Spirit. Their actions were in accordance to the guidance and directive of God, through His Holy Spirit that quickened them.

When you see someone who begins to do a certain remarkable thing that he would not have been able to do in the normal course of his life, know assuredly that there is a certain power working behind the scene of his life. Have we ever thought about how Noah, a primitive man in the primitive age, who was not a carpenter or a boat builder yet he was able to embark on a divine project of building highly sophisticated Ark of Noah according to specification of God? I described the Ark of Noah as ‘sophisticated’ in terms of the primitive generation of Noah when a boat with the capacity of cargo that can accommodate the weight of male and female of all animals that God created. The likely effect of pressure of the heavy weight of boat on water on the boat had never been known or tested. The boat did not capsize and did not sink for those numbers of days of flood. It was the first instrument that God used through man like you and I to save the family of Noah and all the animals that God preserved during the flood. That is why I strongly believe that salvation of man, from generation to generation, always come through the

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divine partnership of Holy Spirit with man and the execution of it comes through the obedience to the quickening of the anointing of Holy Spirit upon the elect.

I always wonder: how did these children of God begin to hear the voice of God? In Abraham we learned of an unparalleled faith, for he forsook all his beloved kindred to follow the directive of God to the place he did not know before. Moses also expressly declared his inability to lead the Israelites. He gave so many excuses but God assured him of His divine presence. We all knew the faithfulness of God that manifested through the power of Holy Spirit in Moses leadership calling to lead the Israelites out of the bondage of the Egyptians. You will also notice the similarity of the power of God in the ministry of the prophets. It seemed like when these servants of God spoke, the power of creation was evoked. Imagine how Elijah stopped the normal course of nature with the spoken words of his mouth when for three and a half years rain did not fall in the province of Ahab. *"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." (1 King 17:1)* With his utterance he unlocked the course of nature and the rain fell the day he informed Ahab the rain will fall. *"And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain." (1 King 18:41)* Singlehandedly the Spirit of God used him to turn the hearts of the

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Israelites back to God. How can one explain the power of the Prophet of Elijah, the *Prophet of Fire* that call fire to consume his burnt offering from Heaven in order to prove a point to the idolatrous Israelites that they were worshipping a dead god? Elijah was said to have run from Jezreel to Mount Sinai a distance of about 200 miles when he was fearfully running away from Jezebel before God intervened and bade him to go back since He had not finished with him in his ministry. I am always amazed with the faithfulness of God towards these faithful servants in the way God caused His miracles to happen through them. Consider, also, the role of the Holy Spirit in the anointing of Saul the son of Kish and also the subsequent anointing of David as the King of Israel. We shall elaborate on these facts in the subsequent chapters.