

# A SPIRITUAL MINISTRY THAT HONORS THE LORD

By Pastor Rene Lussier

A preacher died and went to heaven, he noticed that a New York taxi driver had been given a higher place than he had. "I don't understand," he complained...

"Our policy is to reward results," answered a voice. "What happened, Pastor, whenever you gave a sermon?"

The minister admitted that some in the congregation fell asleep.

"Exactly," said the voice. "And when people rode in this man's taxi, they not only stayed awake, they prayed."

- This morning we want to look more closely at how we can have a ministry that honors the Lord

- We are called to be **vessels of honor**

2Tim 2:20 (KJS) But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work.

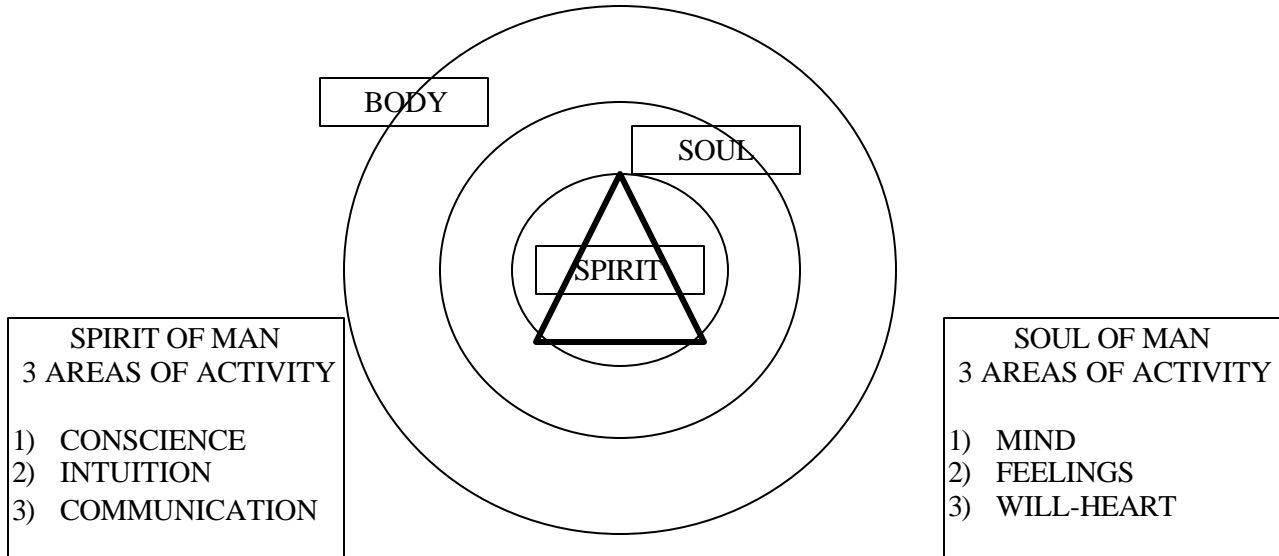
AMP- 2 Tim 2:21, So whoever cleanses himself [from what unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart *and* useful for honorable *and* noble purposes, consecrated *and* profitable to the Master, fit *and* ready for any good work.

- A vessel of honor, sanctified, set apart, fit and ready for the master's use.
- That's what we want to be.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MINISTRY

- How can we develop a ministry that will honor God?

1) A ministry that will minister to God and honor God has to be a ministry of the spirit



**GOD'S PLAN** is to have the Holy Spirit lives and works in the spirit of man in order to govern man's whole being (soul- body)

**The fulfillment of it began at Pentecost and continue until today...**

- The word spirit "pneuma" mentioned 350 times in NT (Spirit of God or spirit of man)
- Look at the chart...

- 1) Conscience—discern right/wrong
- 2) **Intuition**—spiritual understanding of truth (without reasoning)
  - Spiritual insight, awareness or perception
- 3) Communication—worship

- 1) Mind—Understanding, human knowledge
- 2) Feelings—Emotions
- 3) Will—Heart

**We need the full power of the Holy Spirit at work in our whole being— spirit, soul and body in order to minister to God and for God...**

- We need to be Born again... and sanctified by the Holy Spirit ...**WHY?**

**The natural man- the flesh**

Roma 8:7 (NIV) the sinful [carnal] mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.  
 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

2The 2:13 (NIV) But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. In the natural, we cannot submit to God. The best we can bring is an empty, lifeless religion that cannot please him.

**2 things:** The Holy Spirit at work sanctifying and Belief [knowledge] in the truth (Combination of spirit and soul)

- After our soul has been saved, **we begin to know truth and God- with our MIND**

2Pet 3:18 (NIV) But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

- This knowledge from the soul is (cognitive) - ( the mental process by which we normally learn)
- Our soulish understanding is subject to sin, after salvation, because of the Holy Spirit working in us, our understanding is renewed (being made new)...

Roma 12:2 (NIV) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ephe 5:8 (NIV) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

- There is 2 kinds of understanding: 1. the knowledge obtained by the mind as it learn truth, but there is also a spiritual dimension revealed by the Holy Spirit.

1Cor 2:11 (NIV) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

**(1) How does the Holy Spirit guide and call to specific task and ministry?**

- **How does he operates the gifts of the Holy Spirit (especially gifts of revelation)?**

Mark 2:8 (NKJV) But immediately, when Jesus perceived [aware] in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"

**The book of Acts is really the “Acts of the Holy Spirit” operating in the spirit of the early Christians.** This is to be our model for our church and individual ministry. Spirit-Filled living

- Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:5 (NKJV) When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews [that] Jesus [is] the Christ. [KJV- Paul was pressed by the Spirit]

- How Paul was led to macedonia

Acts 16:6 (NIV) Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept [prevented]by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, **concluding** that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 13:2 (NIV) While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 20:22 (NIV) "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

- Prophecy is an area in which we need to grow... (IMPORTANT) the work of HS

**(2) As our spirit is governed by the Spirit of God, our hearts need to be governed as well**

Our heart (will) is the most important function of our being.

Pastor Jennifer explained it very well in our Wednesday night study:

*"It is what governs our daily life. It is the target that God wants to reach in order to deal with us. It is the area where we choose to live by faith or not and obey or disobey, to respond to God's call or not..."*

- The most important function is to respond to God...

That's why we need to be filled by the HS.

- When Paul was under the obligation of the HS, look at verse 24

Acts 20:24 (NIV) However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Eph 6:6 (NKJV) not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart [soul]

Colo 3:23 (NKJV) And whatever you do, do it heartily [from the soul], as to the Lord and not to men,

**It is the working of the HS that enables us to will and to act- to accomplish God's purpose (not our flesh)...**

Phil 2:13 (NIV) for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Roma 7:6 (NIV) But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Roma 1:9 (NKJV) For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit...

"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

- **What's so important about Pentecost?** We also need our own Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

> The Spirit has been with believers since the first Pentecost, so that it could enter our spirit and work constantly with our spirit so that our lives may be transformed, AND:

**Eph 4:23 to be made new [renewed] in the attitude of your minds;**

- **Pentecost can be summed up in one word, "CHANGE"**.

▪ There are so many Christians who are like the disciples were before Pentecost – confused, weak, half-hearted, uncommitted...

- We need the Holy Spirit to come work in us, and change us.

▪ Our problem is, we don't think we need to be changed. "I'm alright the way I am,". "What do I need to change about myself, I'm not that bad?" The answer is, a lot.

- Yes, we are Christians, but we still have sinful habits that we don't want to get rid of.

▪ We still have moments when we do not walk by faith, we do not surrender, we do not open up to the fullness of the HS..

- **How does a person change his soul?** You can't do it by trying to be a better person.

▪ Your soul is too complicated for you to fix yourself. You need someone to fix it for you. And that someone is the Holy Spirit.

Do you want to be able to live the way God tells you to live in the Bible?

- Do you want to change your soul for the better?

This is what the Holy Spirit does.

- He did that in a miraculous, way on that first Pentecost.
- Today, that's how the Holy Spirit changes people, changes you, turning you more and more into the Christian that God has made you to be.

The Christian life is not just about salvation, **but transformation**.

On the surface, it doesn't look like anything spectacular. But on the inside of you, all kinds of changes are taking place.