

## Centrality Of The Holy Spirit In Victorious Christian Living

Christ's promise in John 16:13 - **"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come"**; highlights the importance of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures for all believers. The Bible is the foundation and cornerstone of the Christian faith. The Word (both "Written" and "Living") is the lamp, map, compass, milk, water, food etc essential for all pilgrims on their journey to heaven. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is the indispensable teacher for proper understanding of the Bible, correct interpretation of its precepts and right application of its principles in life. This is why we must earnestly seek and carefully maintain the fellowship of the Holy Spirit if heaven we must make.

The issue regarding the Word and the Holy Spirit is not that of "either / or" but of "both" in healthy spiritual growth and performance. Therefore, over-concentration on one to the neglect of the other results in extremism with serious dangers. In the Bible we find examples of such dangers in the Corinthian church on one hand who were so spiritually gifted but carnal due to ignorance of the Word, and therefore in danger of missing heaven. On the other hand we also see the grave errors of the Pharisees who were "specialists" of the Word (i.e. letters of the law) to the neglect of the Spirit. No wonder Paul pointed out that **"able ministers of the New Testament"** are not made **"of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life"** (2 Corinthians

3:6). Both the letter and the spirit are essential ingredients in the making of an able Minister!

As pointed out in I Corinthians 10:11 **"... these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"**. Let's apply these lessons of the scriptures to our lives lest we fall into similar condemnation.

It was "extremist" concentration on the letters of the law (i.e. "Word") to the neglect of the Spirit that turned the Pharisees into harsh, cruel, insensitive hypocrites. While parading themselves as doctors (i.e. experts) of the law (i.e. the letters of the word) they became guilty of the lack of mercy, love, justice, etc – the very credentials that are uppermost in the mind of God. Are there not many today who are repeating similar mistakes of the Pharisees? While they are parading as experts of "the word" they are glaringly missing out on the real life of God with respect to honesty, integrity, transparency, truthfulness, justice, love and mercy, to mention the few.

Extremism on the letters of the "word" turns some people into modern "Ethiopian Eunuchs", who read but do not understand how to correctly apply what is read into the proper context of life, faith and human relationships; and others into modern day Pharisees who corrupt the word for personal agenda. The Pharisees so ran after the letters of "the word" with such zeal that they became cruel murderers – even murdering the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son – the purity of who's Words they claimed to protect. In their zeal for the letter of

“the word” they became so blind that they could not recognise the “Living Word” standing before their very naked eyes.

No wonder Jesus commanded the disciples to first **“tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”** (Luke 24:49) before embarking on the Great Commission. Note from the summary in the table below, the difference that the Holy Spirit made in life and ministry of the early Church, when He was allowed to operate freely.

No	Spiritual gifts, administrations and operations.	The difference these made in spiritual health and progress of the church and their leaders.
<b>Ministry gifts - Offices (Ephesians)</b>		
1	Apostles	Leadership
2	Prophets	Insight and inspiration
3	Evangelists	Anointing for salvation
4	Pastors	Spiritual development
5	Teachers	Spiritual maturity of members
<b>Gifts of the Spirit for body ministry (I Corinthians)</b>		
6	Word of wisdom	Resolution of complexes
7	Word of knowledge	Revelation and problem solving
8	Faith	Miracles, wonders/breakthroughs
9	Healing	Healing and Health (sound mind in sound body)
10	Miracles	Problem Solving, breaking jokes and bondages.
11	Prophecy	Insight, direction, inspiration
12	Discerning of Spirits	Casting out demons
13	Tongues	Communion with God

No	Spiritual gifts, administrations and operations.	The difference these made in spiritual health and progress of the church and their leaders.
14	Interpretation of tongues	Edification of worshippers

**Service Gifts (Romans 12)**

15	Ministry (serving)	Church development
16	Exhortation	Encouragement
17	Giving	Meeting physical/emotional needs
18	Ruling	Administration and effectiveness
19	Showing mercy	Empathy and support

**Evangelistic Gifts (Acts)**

20	Prayer	Empowerment / Spiritual strength
21	Ministry of the Word	Spiritual edification and growth
22	Preaching	Spiritual development

**Liturgical Gifts**

23	Communion	Fellowship with Christ
24	Fellowship	Fellowship with Christ's body
25	Worship	Inspiration and deliverance
26	Visitation	Encouragement and restoration



Your spiritual welfare is our concern. For further help, please contact:

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