

Revelations of the Spirit | A Journal of His Counsel for March 9th Second Saturday

The Holy Spirit's words to the early church are recorded in Paul's letters. The Spirit of course speaks to us today as well. Below are various messages from our Counsellor in response to questions of our planning core over the past month. Our preparation for this morning has come from seeking the Lord's purposes for all of us who are present.

OUR PRACTICE: PART OF RELEASING HIS MIGHTY MINISTRY

- 1 We began every meeting in scripture.
- 2 We invited the Lord to lead our time of planning.
- 3 We asked these questions and waited in silence.
- 4 We wrote down what we heard and shared it with one another.
- 5 We then prayed back to Him what He had shown us – entrusting to Him the unfolding of His purposes.



- 2/15** How does the Lord want access among us on March 9th? How does He want to be portrayed—to reveal Himself among us?
- 2/19 ATN Community Gathering**
What is on the Lord's heart for [March, April, May] for the core components of our ministry?
- 2/22** What more do You want to show us about the purposes for those coming on March 9th?
- 3/1** On March 9th what do you want to reveal among us --what are we to ask you for today?
- 3/5 Worship Team** – General prayer
- 3/6** What are we to believe and pray for according to Your bountiful heart and power?

1) GRACE: A GRADUAL WORK

Image of Sidewalk ▪ Represents our walk with the Spirit. It's a series of typical gray slabs of concrete. One slab has colorful chalk pictures on it—sidewalk art such as what a child might draw. It represents “play” that has meaning—the freedom of a childlike heart that openly trusts Him. The ways of walking with the Holy Spirit can be colorful and active, with symbols that speak to us.

Practice ▪ Give credit to the Holy Spirit who gives us eyes to see and ears to hear. Analogy from one who teaches on prayer. She learned to ski by practicing and encourages people that this is true of learning to pray. Listening in prayer—learning to hear and understand the voice of God's Spirit, is not magic. It takes practice.

2) MORE FOR US TO UNDERSTAND

PERCENTAGE ▪ Many of us grasp only a small percentage of the Spirit's work in our lives. We know only Father and Son—two-thirds. We need Him to bring forth growth, to realize that He really lives in us as God's Spirit!

ACCURACY ▪ Get rid of false ideas of the Spirit or idea that we already know all we need to know. We need to understand the comprehensiveness of what He does; otherwise we restrict Him, not paying full attention.

REVELATION ▪ Prayer for March 9th: Ask for deep revelation for those coming and for ourselves. Ask for eyes and ears—to see what He wants to change in our minds. Give testimony to discipline, grace, vision—faithfulness on our part to serve them. Enable us to call forth the listening and healing – to see the ripple effects of healing, ALL from the Holy Spirit.

FOUNDATIONS ▪ Song - I Feel the Earth Move Under My Feet. He tests foundations, shaking things up, waking up, interrupting the status quo. “For such a time as this” (Bk of Esther).

LOUD VOICE OF JESUS ▪ *John 7:37-39* On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

3) OPENING OUR LIVES TO HIM

Image: Arid places and irrigation channels with gates ▪ There is the main channel and the secondary gates. We may keep those gates closed—shut down, but opening them is simple, true, and revitalizing as we see what we're to gain.

Image: Marsh area alongside a river ▪ Its flow did not reach the marsh—a back wash, with the odor of decaying vegetation, etc. It became a place of fruit and life when a new stream was opened to flow into it, generating fresh life. GERMINATE.

- » River flowing into marsh: cares and concerns have blocked the flow and the fulfilling of His purposes represented by this marsh.
- » There is rich soil in places like this. Germination happens when the water flows in. Significant wounds can block the flow, yet [we can find that] the stopping-up contributed to the richness of the soil.

Revitalization: salt and light into our lives

- » Image: opening up old, airless rooms, e.g., cabin after the winter—letting in air and light.
- » Rooms thought to be well-furnished and full of air and light need to be opened up as well.
- » Listening to Him takes time; get rid of clutter so we can make room to hear.

4) FAITH AND CHOICE

- » We were never meant to be only a bucket, but to be a river that is living, flowing through us—nurturing to others.
- » Self-focus keeps us from the “yoke” of our full call, not holding back. Therefore, it’s a time for us to get up and out the door, like a nurse getting someone who is “well enough” needs to get out of bed—ambulatory.
- » There is a time to get moving, be more intentional in the Lord, involving another step in our lives.
- » It can be very painful to get up and walk when we’ve been “laid up.” We need others to walk with us!

Image: Box of Chocolates ▪ What we appropriate is a fraction of what we can have. So we pray for the hungry – for our hunger, and the Spirit’s “revealing.” Choosing from a box of chocolates is a delight. Let down our defenses and grasp the power of the Spirit—that He is worthy of our consideration. Likewise we would be compelled to desire to enter in, for the release of the life of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:9-10

Fear and Faith: Image: Wine sitting on a shelf ▪ It is amazingly good wine ... the cork pulled out and the wine flowing. The wine cellar contains the fruits and gifts of Spirit. An analogy with Peter getting out of the boat, walking on water, but then in effect he “put the cork back in the bottle.” We can be afraid of God changing us but we can let go of the fear for sake of “perfect love.” We are always to have fruits of the Spirit.

Image: – freeway through a town ▪ It is efficient to go straight through but people are circling around on belt-line freeway instead of going into or through the heart of the city.

- » Prayer about skirting the heart of things; too busy? No time to slow down and go to the center with the Lord; bypassing the main road the Lord has for us?
- » We are to draw near, notice the movement we feel within ourselves—to feel a comfort level with being exercised, challenged, motivated rather than bored and disappointed.

5) A PERSONAL WORK

Our Sufferings ▪ Reference to the book, Hinds Feet on High Places. The main character, Much Afraid, encountered Jesus at various “altars” on her journey in the mountain wilderness. It is an allegory of various places of suffering in her life where she was met and refined, little by little. Our sufferings are used by the Holy Spirit. They are also ways that we become open to Him.

Our own path ▪ He has increments of transformation for us. At times we step off the path for healing, and then come back on to keep moving. He is doing a major work to send us forth for the sake of the Kingdom.

Analogy: The Father’s Heart ▪ It is important to see the Heart behind the working of the Spirit. [E.g, we cannot see our own hearts beating – only the outward evidence that enable our members to move.] We can ask to recognize the heart of love of the Father, and of Jesus who chose to sacrifice out of pure love, that He would help us make the CONNECTION. It’s the same Spirit and the same reason: The Holy Spirit carries forth Jesus’ ministry of love through us.

John 21:15-17 ▪ “Peter, do you love me? Feed my sheep.” There is no limit in this. Engage His love—the essence of Him.

Repositioning and relationship ▪ The Lord would reposition us. Image: we are “leaning forward,” but not enough to fully be who we are in Him. He wants to reposition us to fully enter into who we are and for greater ministry. This involves the wind of the Holy Spirit, His ministry and our relationship with Him.

Image: An inner place with Him ▪ There was an image of a cylinder. Outside it was wintery, but inside stood a person in a spring-like atmosphere—a cylinder of Life. The person was quieted—smelling the fragrance and looking at the green leaves. The Lord wanted each of us to experience being alone with Him, surrounded in His Presence, to receive from Him. This time would leave an imprint we could take with us. An encounter /experience to take with them. We would come away with a sense of being known individually by Him.



Quiet Reflection + The Mighty Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Second Saturday • March 9, 2019

Give ear to me and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live Isaiah 55:3a • Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you James 4:8a. | These questions are meant to help you dialog with the Lord, sharing heart-to-heart. Choose the ones that seem most significant for your life at this time.

❖ MORE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT _____

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to meet you in this quiet time and place. Is there something you would like to ask of Him? Does He have a fresh word of encouragement or insight for you today?
 - » hunger or thirst for more of His Presence in your life?
 - » more knowledge and experience of His ministry?
 - » His revelation of all that you have as a believer (1 Cor. 2:9)?

❖ OPENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK _____

1. Making room for the Spirit happens because we are Jesus' disciples. We are meant to trust the measures of God and the work of the Spirit rather than our limited minds, or our abilities and emotions. Is the Lord asking you to take new steps with the Holy Spirit?
 - » To be taught, trained, and equipped for your chosen, appointed way of bearing much fruit (John 15:12-17)?

The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

Journaling is meant to extend beyond processing of feelings and thoughts. One of its main values is in giving God time to speak to us! For example:

☛ Listen

Is He asking questions of you? Is He providing much needed counsel—His version of your inner thoughts?

☛ Dialogue

Conversation with the Lord brings much understanding and draws us closer to Him.

~ Invite Him to speak to you. Wait in the quiet. Respond. Wait again, etc.

~ Write a letter, poem or psalm to express your heart.

☛ Images that Speak

~ Draw a picture or symbol of what is on your heart.

~ Ask Him for an image that depicts how He sees you or something you're concerned about at this time.

☛ Editing Your Story

Ask Him to bring to light any assumptions or perceptions embedded in your heart and story that are not true. What is true that He would write in place of what is written there?

☛ Quiet

Invite the Lord to minister to you in the quiet. Whether with words or in the simple awareness that He is present with you, let Him "restore your soul" in whatever way you need. • You may want to journal and reflect on this time later.

2. Can you identify barriers that keep you from the works He would do in and through you?
 - » Doubt or fear about opening yourself to His ministry?

 - » Lack of motivation—no felt need for the working of the Holy Spirit in your life and ministry?

 - » Let Him show you anything else that blocks the river of His life; invite Him into the “marshland,” to places in you that He wants to call to life.

3. We are created to fulfill the purposes of the God of all love, and the fruits of the Spirit flow from His life, already within us. Are there specific fruits of the Spirit you want Him to develop in you (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control)?

4. Our faith. His perfect love. ■ Ask the Lord if you, like Peter who walked on water, have shut down your faith in any way (think of Paul Currie’s analogy of putting the cork back on the bottle). Knowing that His perfect love is behind all that He asks of us, what would He say to you about the full measure of faith He desires for you?

❖ CLOSER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Chris talked about the unique, personal ways in which the Spirit works in us. Through the Spirit we are equipped and called to the works God has for us, personally. Ask Him how He would deepen your relationship with Him—to know His heart, and to feel secure that He knows and guides you.
 - » Is there a place of pain, weakness or stress that He wants access to, to help you and to redeem that place for some other purpose?

- » Is there something in your self-image that keeps you from the fullness of His working in and through you. (For example, from today's testimony, if someone feels worthless they cannot appreciate how God has made them or respond confidently to His love and leading.)

2. The cylinder. One image the Lord gave our planning team was of a person closed in with the Lord—alone with Him so that the person could receive refreshment in His presence. Either now, or when you can set aside time at home, ask the Lord to open times in your life when you can experience Him in this way. Invite Him to deepen your understanding of the Holy Spirit

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER MINISTRY ~~ Following Communion the prayer ministers will be available to bless, anoint or affirm something significant the Lord has shown you today.

Please come prepared by writing down specifically what you want them to pray for:

1. REVELATION _____
An area of your life or faith where you need the Spirit's revelation, going beyond your understanding.
2. FRESH VISION AND FAITH _____
An area of your life, work, etc., where you need fresh vision and faith to move forward.
3. GIFT OR FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT _____
Are you asking the Lord for a spiritual gift, or to show you what gift(s) He has for you?
Is there a fruit of the Spirit you want Him to strengthen?
4. RENEWAL OF HIS LOVE AND LEADING _____
As you operate in your call and spiritual gifts, perhaps you have lost the sense of God's love and leading.
5. COURAGE TO GROW _____
For courage to ask for a greater measure of the Spirit's work in your life, and for His passion to fill you.
6. RENOUNCE SINFUL HABIT OR BARRIER _____
Prayer to renounce a habit or sin barrier that has kept you from the full measure God has for you, or has affected your relationship with Him in some other way.
7. GROWTH IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE _____
Inviting the Holy Spirit to teach and train you in prayer – to give you fresh anointing in intercession or some other area of prayer.

Second Saturday, March 9, 2019

Scriptures on The Mighty Ministry of the Holy Spirit

❖ Shared During Worship _____

Old Testament Prophecy: Zechariah 6:4, Joel 2:28

Teaching of Jesus: Luke 11:10-13; John 7:37-39

Words of John the Baptist: Matthew 3:11,16

Words of Jesus: Acts 1:4-5, 8

Jesus' Words Fulfilled: Acts 2:1-6, Acts 2:38-39

❖ Shared With The Message _____

Revelation and Discernment: I Corinthians 2:1-16

Chosen to Bear Fruit: John 15:7-16

One Work, Varied Gifts: I Corinthians 12:1, 4-14,27-31

Jesus Sends the Helper: John 14:16-17; 16:13-15

Operating Only Through Love: I Corinthians 13:1-3

Work of Intercession: Romans 8:26-28

Praying on All Occasions: Ephesians 6:17-18