



## The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Message Notes, April 30, 2017

Guest Speaker: Mark Nyeswander, Riverstone Church, Kennesaw, GA

Guest speaker Mark Nyeswander connected CCC's foundational text – Ezekiel 47, that powerful representation of the transforming life of God as a river – to Jesus' statement that "Whoever believes in me ... out of his inmost being will flow rivers of living water." The life of God, through the Holy Spirit, is meant not simply to be in us, but to fill us and flow from us – "and everywhere the river flows, everything will live."

### The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

First, we must recognize that His ministry in us is not meant to be static like a quiet pool, but active and dynamic like a surging river that stirs up, cleanses, revives, invigorates and propels.

1. Holy Spirit ministers the **PRESENCE** of God in and through us.
  - Christianity is not merely a conceptual faith. Yes, it is founded on truth, but ours is an experiential faith. It is interactive and emotional (not merely rational). It is relational – we dialogue with God, we hear him, we "taste and see that He is good," we sense His presence, we feel His love and affection, we love him with our hearts (along with our minds and bodies). The Holy Spirit, stirring within us, is how we experience God.
  - If we are not experiencing God's presence in our lives, perhaps we are allowing things to clog up the spring of the Spirit's life in us. Perhaps we are like the third soil in Jesus' parable "that fell among the thorns." The seed takes root and grows, but the thorns ("the worries and riches of this life") choke the life out of the plant and it bears no fruit. (Matthew 13:4-7, 22)
  - How can we stay attentive to the presence of God in our lives? How do we keep the thorns out?
  
2. Holy Spirit ministers the **POWER** of God in and through us.
  - When the Ezekiel river reaches the Dead Sea (where nothing lives), everything comes to life. This is transforming power! The Holy Spirit ministers the power of God in and through our lives to bring redemption, and wholeness to us and to those around us.
  - We are the channels for His transforming power.
  - What are the chief obstacles to being channels for His power?
    - a) We don't really believe His power can flow through us to impact the lives of others.
    - b) We are not willing to "step out" and take action to engage in His ministry of power – praying aloud for breakthroughs/miracles, laying hands on others, telling the gospel message, speaking openly the truths of God, tangibly engaging with people in need.
  - His power most often stirs during the act of ministering, not before.
  - He often waits for us to step out first; then the flow comes.
  
3. Holy Spirit ministers the **PURITY** of God in and through us.
  - Holy Spirit nurtures in us the character of Jesus – "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-24).
    - He flows through our minds – to think like Jesus thought.
    - He flows through our emotions – to feel like Jesus felt.
    - He flows through our wills – to choose like Jesus chose.



- Holy Spirit also purifies – forgiving sin and washing away silt and sediment that clog His flow – e.g., selfishness, lusts, attachments to stuff, pursuit of pleasures, avoidance of pain, self-security, etc.
- How do we stay in the flow of the Spirit?
  - a) Sacrificial surrender – “not what I want, but whatever you want, Lord.”
  - b) Consecration – “I’m all in. I lay down anything that pollutes my heart.”
  - c) Praying and asking for a fresh surge of the Holy Spirit, as we did last week by fasting, gathering and praying to seek the Lord for a fresh stirring of the Spirit.

May we continue in this posture of asking and expecting the Holy Spirit to move, stir our hearts, empower us, and bring transformation in our lives, our church and our city.

“Father, thy kingdom come.”