

...FOR THOSE SEEKING THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF THE *Holy Spirit*

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Divine Revelation

Within Our Spirits

by Dr. Mark Virkler

We come to know truth with our hearts or spirits, rather than with our minds. God reveals things that our natural eyes and ears could never sense through His Spirit speaking directly to our spirits. It is not that our natural eyes, ears and mind have no place in God's glorious revelation, for they are wonders of His creation as much as our hearts and spirits are. However, each part of man (his body, soul, and spirit) has a special function in Gods plan.



and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have eternal life."

It is quite easy to acquire correct doctrine and head knowledge from Scripture. We can learn what the Word says about Christ and become satisfied with that information. But such intellectual exercise does not profit our spirits at all. We must take a further step of loving trust in Jesus as a Person Who is alive right now and yearns

to be a part of our lives. Only through heart faith can we experience the things that the Scriptures testify about Him.

God says that there are some things that He can only "reveal through the Spirit." Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God has given us direct communion with Himself. We hear His voice within our hearts. "We are led by the Spirit" (Rom. 8:14). We have inner subjective experiences. Through insight, we receive revelation from Him, and He illumines Scripture to us. Through intuition, we sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the voice of God. So, our life in the spirit, our relationship with God, is an inner, intuitive, spiritual, heart experience.

The Use and Abuse of Doctrine and Technique

We must receive the caution Jesus gave in John 5:39, 40. "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness to Me;

Finney Spoke of Three Classes of People

"Many, understanding the "Confession of Faith" as summarizing the doctrines of the Bible, very much neglect the Bible and rest in a belief of the articles of faith. Others, more cautious and more in earnest, search the Scriptures to see what they say about Christ, but stop short and rest in the formation of correct theological opinions; while others, and they are the only saved class, love the Scriptures intensely because they testify of Jesus. They search and devour the Scriptures because they tell them who Jesus is and what they may trust Him for.

They do not stop short and rest in this testimony; but by an act of loving trust (they) go directly to Him, to His person, thus joining their souls to Him in a union that

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receives from Him, by a direct divine communication, the things for which they are led to trust Him. This is certainly Christian experience. This is receiving from Christ the eternal life which God has given us in Him. This is saving faith... The error to which I call attention does not consist in laying too much stress in teaching and believing the facts and doctrines of the Gospel; but consists in stopping short of trusting the personal Christ for what those facts and doctrines teach us to trust Him, and satisfying ourselves with believing the testimony about Him, instead of committing our souls to Him by an act of loving trust." (Taken from protected material used by permission of the Christian Literature Crusade, Fort Washington, PA 10934.)



Do not stop with the doctrine and techniques taught in this manual or trust in them. Life and power flow only from Jesus. On the other hand, do not discard doctrines or techniques. Recognize that they have been given as channels through which the grace of God flows. Let them lead you into a full Christ, allowing you to wholly experience His life.

Experiencing Scripture, Not Just Codifying It

I can study the Bible rationally, simply with the mind, and learn many facts about God. For instance, I can learn that God loves me. But since love is an inner heart experience, I cannot fully experience God's love until He touches my heart, heals my hurts, and breaks my hardness. When He fills me to overflowing and brings tears of joy to my eyes, then through an intuitive, spiritual experience, I have fully experienced the love I read about.

However, spirit-to-Spirit encounters with God have become much too rare among Western Christians. Since rationalism has taken over the Western world in the past few hundred years, the Church has also come under its influence and has not given the attention it should to the work of the Spirit in our lives. Therefore, we are often bound by rationalism and miss the fullness of relationship with our Father that the early Church enjoyed.

Forty-nine percent of the New Testament contains references to spiritual (non-rational) experiences. To be bound by rationalism will effectively cut off half of New Testament Christianity. If you are not relating intuitively to God, but only intellectually, you will lose your opportunity to flow in the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit; to receive guidance through dreams and visions; to have a fully meaningful and effective prayer life; to commune with the Lord in a dialogue, to build an extremely intimate relationship with Him; and to wholly experience the inward benefits of true worship.

Through rationalism (an over-emphasis on reason), Christianity and the Western world have ceased to know how to deal with their inner lives (commonly called heart, spirit, subconscious, or unconscious). Because this entire area of our lives has been cut off and ignored, not only by Western culture but also by the Church, people have not been able to deal successfully with the forces within them (repressed hurts, fears, anxieties, forces of darkness - demons) and have been left more and more to seek escapes such as

drinking, drugs, sensual fulfillment and suicide. Others become neurotic and psychotic; still others go to the occult and Eastern religions to satisfy the inner desires of the spirit which are not being met in "rational Christianity."

We must rediscover direct contact with God and once again become open to intuitive, spiritual experiences. We must rediscover our spiritual senses and reinstate them in our lives, allowing the power of the Father, of Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit to heal, strengthen and guide us from within. Therein lies the work of the Church. Direct inner experiences with the Lord bring healing to the spirit, soul and body.

From How to Hear God's Voice, copyright 2006 by Mark Virkler. Used by permission. The book, How to Hear God's Voice, has been instrumental in teaching hundreds of thousands how to easily hear God's voice on a daily basis. Rev. John Arnott, senior pastor of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, was so impacted that his entire staff and prayer ministry team went through Mark's courses. To learn more about Mark's ministry or to order a copy of this book, please go to: www.cwgmministries.org. Mark will be one of the speakers at the February 1-2, 2008 Equipping Conference.



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