

Building Capacity Series

DIMENSIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



'And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.' Isaiah 11:2

As part of our building capacity series we are going to explore critical role the Holy Spirit plays in equipping us to demonstrate the character and power of God in and through our lives. This series we will focus on the six dimensions of the Holy Spirit as we dive deep into Isaiah 11:2.

God in His infinite wisdom has designed our journey in a way that helps us take advantage of each dimension of the Holy Spirit, going into deeper levels of His operation in our lives as we increase in our capacity.

Our prayer is that the Lord will open our eyes to how to consistently align with the Holy Spirit as He leads us along the best pathways of our lives.



Day 1

The Holy Spirit

'Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.' John 16:7

When we look at the anchor scripture for the study (Isaiah 11:2) we may think that there are different spirits in operation, but that wouldn't be accurate. Rather what we are looking at is different 'aspects' of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus told the disciples about Him in the scripture above Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as our "Helper". If the disciples needed help centuries ago, we certainly need much more in these days and as He helps us, all these aspects come into play.

'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' Matthew 28:19

To go into depth about who the Holy Spirit is would be a separate topic on its own as a few lines will not be able to do justice to this subject. But for the purpose of this study, we will summarize and say that the Holy Spirit is the third part of the Holy Trinity. He has always been in existence and those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour have the opportunity to have the Holy Spirit actually live in us (1 Cor 3:16;6:19, 2 Tim 1:14). We can interact with and get closer to Him as we give more room for Him to move in our lives (Romans 8:14). It's also possible to grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30) so even though present, He wouldn't be active in our lives. It's a relationship we need to actively cultivate through prayer, study and meditation of the Bible and obedience.

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." Luke 24:49

When the Holy Spirit is in us and we give Him the liberty to move in us, He gives us the power to live a victorious life while here on earth, without compromising our spiritual connection and development. This is accomplished – among many other ways – through the working of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord in our lives. These aren't separate from the Holy Spirit, but are part of Him. Over the next few days, we will look into how each of these functions in our lives.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit. I pray for the grace to really know who He is so I can walk closely with Him.



Day 2

Wisdom

'Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him...' Deuteronomy 34:9

The Bible draws a clear distinction between the wisdom that is from heaven and that which is human. It's not just about knowing what to do, but doing it in a manner that glorifies God. God's wisdom is supernatural so it takes into cognizance not just the things that we have the natural capacity for, but the Holy Spirit brings His infinite capacity to bear as well, giving us access into dimensions we couldn't possibly know. We see the spirit of wisdom in operation throughout the Bible but will look at a couple of illustrations in Joshua.

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him... Deuteronomy 34:9

Joshua was one of the leaders who demonstrated the spirit of wisdom in unusual and uncertain times in the Bible. Charged with taking the Israelites out of the wilderness into Canaan, there were many battles to fight and many unfamiliar terrains to cover so supernatural wisdom was certainly required to secure the victories. And he was certainly successful.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5 NKJV

During his leadership there were two instances recorded where Joshua erred by relying on his own wisdom. The first was in the battle of Ai (Joshua 7) where the Israelites assumed that because they outnumbered their enemy they would easily win. Instead they were soundly defeated. When they decided to ask God what happened He revealed the reason for the defeat, which they addressed and then gained victory. The second time was when they were deceived by the Gibeonites into getting into an alliance without inquiring from the Lord (Joshua 9). This alliance led to Israel having to fight on Gibeon's behalf (Joshua 10) in a war they hadn't bargained for. God granted them victory, but they need not have gone to war in the first place.

Here's our learning point: It may sometimes seem to be over-zealous to ask God for wisdom in every area of life, but presumption/assumption can be very dangerous and costly. The Lord is more than willing to give, so let's make a habit of asking for the spirit of wisdom in all things.

Prayer: Lord, let the spirit of wisdom be active in every area of my life.



Day 3

Understanding

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.' Proverbs 3:5

Life is full of mysteries which the Holy Spirit helps us unravel as we stay in step with Him. The spirit of understanding in operation gives us insight into both the seen and unseen world. In the seen world we can tap into the immense insight of the one who created all we see today. Which means we can apply His understanding in our businesses, finances, finances, etc. The spirit of understanding also gives insight into the unseen world – what's really going on behind the scenes so we know how to navigate the issues and opportunities of life.

'For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding' Colossians 1:9

Understanding is critical to living a life of impact as it empowers us with the discernment required for what to do, what is happening around us and what God says about it. When the spirit of understanding is active in us we receive deeper insights which gives us an edge both spiritually and in every-day life. The sons of Issachar, though relatively few were distinguished by their understanding of what to do and the best time to do it so all of Israel listened to them. When the spirit of understanding is at work in our lives, we can accurately interpret and respond appropriately to what is going on with and around us and the world at large. When understanding is missing, there's no way we won't take the wrong steps in life.

'He replied, "You are permitted to understand the mysteries. of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others..." Luke 8:10

In life we are faced with the known-unknowns and the unknown-unknowns. With the known unknowns we are aware of our ignorance in a particular area so we seek to gain the necessary information and insight in that area. However, life is filled with the unknown-unknowns: things we can't imagine or know to prepare for. The Holy Spirit helps us in both areas. He directs us to the right type of knowledge to invest in not just for now but also for the future. More importantly He helps us with the areas we could never access ourselves as He makes His own understanding available to us.

Prayer: Lord, let the spirit of understanding be constantly activated in me. Help me lean on your understanding not my own. Fill me with the spirit of understanding concerning every aspect of life, scripture, and heaven's agenda at every point in time.



Day 4

Counsel

'You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.' Psalms 73:24

The spirit of counsel gives us specific strategic instructions about what to do at any point in time. Imagine having a spiritual navigation system guiding you on where and when to go, what to do there and how to do it. Spiritual counsel factors in what was, is and is to come and taking all that together comes out with the specific instruction tailor made for us to align with what God has in store for us. When in operation we receive divine insight into what step to take per time.

'Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.' Isaiah 30:21

'The way you counsel and correct me makes me praise you more, for your whispers in the night give me wisdom, showing me what to do next.' Psalms 16:7 TPT

Because the spirit of counsel is so deep, we may struggle with the instructions we receive at the time, as they may not seem to align with our present reality and what we think we should be doing. Sometimes His instruction may even appear to be the opposite of what we feel we should be doing at the moment. But God is always ahead of us so as uncomfortable as it may be at times, we shouldn't expect to see the full picture from day one. It's this advance information that prepares us for the future and stops us from being shaken by what may be going on around us. Yes, the storms will come, but the spirit of counsel prepares us to be well positioned in spite of the storms.

'God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice.' Job 33:14

How does the spirit of counsel work in us? God's instructions can come through a revelation as we study scriptures, it can come as 'knowing' when we pray, it could be through visions, it all depends on how God speaks to us specifically. So it's important that we learn to identify God's voice and His promptings so we can respond accurately. God will typically speak to us first and can also use someone to confirm what He's told us. It's critical to also note that whatever counsel we receive from another person should resonate with our spirit and must align with God's word.

Prayer: Lord let Your spirit of counsel be activated in me an help me yield to Your instructions so I always do exactly what you would have me do.



Day 5

Might

'and [so that you will begin to know] what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His [active, spiritual] power is in us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength' Ephesians 1:19 AMP

With the spirit of might we can access the supernatural strength of God. This is what gives us the power to do all He has prepared us for. When the Lord gives us insight into His plans for us with the wisdom, understanding and counsel to navigate what needs to be done, He also equips us with the spirit of might to enable us do what is required without depending on ourselves.

"He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone.' 1 Samuel 2:9

"that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man" Ephesians 3:16

The Bible makes it clear to us that natural strength alone is not a sufficient tool for success – supernatural ability is required to accomplish all that God has in store for us. This ability starts with strengthening us in our spirit – the part of us that has the power to take charge of our minds and bodies. It's easy to become emotionally or mentally discouraged or burnt out if we depend on ourselves alone, so the Lord helps us by equipping us with access to His own power which no person or situation can withstand.

'For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall.' Psalms 18:29

The spirit of might also equips us with physical strength and stamina, such that we're able to continue with the assignment God has given us regardless of the pace and even when we ordinarily would have been worn out. The spirit of might also makes the supernatural possible in our actions.

Prayer: Lord strengthen me in my inner man with Your spirit of might, give me the grace to endure and continue what You have called me to do with ease. Strengthen my mind and body with the fortitude to continue in spite of any barriers and challenges I may face in the process. Let me function at a supernatural pace and let my life consistently yield supernatural results.



Day 6

Knowledge

'...God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.' 1 John 3:20

God knows everything that has happened, is happening and will happen. He knows what we need and when we need it. He knows the exact piece of information we need to have at any point in time. He knows everything. What the spirit of knowledge does for us is that it gives us access to some of the knowledge that God has concerning a situation/circumstance as He sees fit to share with us. The spirit of knowledge also gives us access to the most important thing – the knowledge of who God is.

'that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him' Ephesians 1:17

'...The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.' 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

The primary thing the enemy battles in our lives is our knowledge of God. When we don't know who God is – His character and capacity, we also won't know who we are in Him and what we have access to. We won't understand what He has made available to us and how we should live. The spirit of knowledge reveals the deep things of God to us, revealing His character, likes and dislikes. The spirit helps us to accurately navigate along the path of His perfect will for our lives.

'To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning... The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah...' Daniel 1:17,19

When the spirit of knowledge is in operation, it also distinguishes us in the quality and depth of what we know. We see how this was demonstrated in the lives of the Hebrew boys in the book of Daniel. And if He did it for them, He can do the same for you and I.

Prayer: Lord let the spirit of knowledge be active in my life. Help me to know you in a deep and personal way. I also ask Lord for the knowledge that will distinguish me in every area you've planted me, that your name may be glorified.



Day 7

Fear of the Lord

'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.' Proverbs 1:7

The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord go hand in hand because we cannot have true knowledge of who God is without an underlying foundation of the fear of the Lord. The more the Holy Spirit reveals God's vastness, depth, capacity and character to us, it will be difficult not to humble ourselves before Him in reverence. The fear of the Lord also helps shape our character, disposition and opens the door to greater access to Him.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.' Matthew 10:28

When the spirit of the fear of the Lord is active in our lives it shapes our priorities and what we give permission to in our lives. When we truly fear God, we will not do the things He has told us clearly are unacceptable to Him. And when we fall into error, we will quickly turn back to Him in true repentance. Our desire will be to please Him rather than please ourselves or those around us.

'The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.' Psalms 25:14 NIV

The fear of the Lord gives us access to God's secrets, imagine having the opportunity to be God's confidant – what an awesome privilege! It's critical we realize that God doesn't do serious business with anyone that doesn't fear Him. Someone illustrated this clearly by saying: "it's the fear of the Lord that unlocks the secrets of heaven". We wouldn't expose our innermost thoughts to people who treat us with levity, so we shouldn't expect the Almighty God to be any different. He is God and should be revered. In His mercy and unbelievable love, He gives us access to Him, but we limit how close we can really get to Him if we really don't value the relationship.

Prayer: Father, let the spirit of the fear of the Lord rest upon me. Teach me how to revere you as I should. Help me to put you first before anything or anyone else. Let the fear of the Lord be the foundation of anything I do.



Thank you for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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