

## THE REASSURING TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We hope you are all doing well though this strange time of isolation and pray you are aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit working in you and with you.

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S PROVISION FOR US 'HERE & NOW'.

Jesus said:

**John 14:16, 18**

*...I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may abide with you forever - 18 I will not leave you orphans; I WILL come to you.*

The Holy Spirit is the Answer to all our needs ... emotional ... financial ... social ... mental ... and spiritual ...

As a believer, **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** You are not just saved – forgiven and forgotten.

The Father has also assigned to you a constant Companion / Helper providing all you need as you WADE THROUGH THESE STRANGE & TROUBLED TIMES. THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR EMOTIONAL & MENTAL TRAUMA HAS ALREADY BEEN DEPOSITED DEEP WITHIN US **HERE & NOW.**

OUR VERSE TODAY IS ROMANS 8:16

Romans 8:16 **SLIDE**

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

This is one of the 3 great activities of the Holy Spirit found in Romans chapter 8 which we mentioned last week:

1. He gives life to our entire outer being (v11)
2. He bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (v16)
3. He bears our weaknesses and intercedes for us (v26)

*So here we see the Holy Spirit is active **IN us CONTINUOUSLY**, without ceasing ...*

- THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WITNESS IS **CONTINUAL**

Romans 8:16

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

**THIS IS NOT TALKING ABOUT BEING BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT ... THIS IS AN ONGOING EXPERIENCE BY THE SPIRIT THAT STARTED THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES WITH YOUR SPIRIT CONTINUALLY THAT YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD.**

**THE VERB, 'WITNESSES' IS 'PRESENT ACTIVE INDICATIVE' WHICH MEANS ...**

The Holy Spirit is now **alive** deep within you witnessing to your spirit and will continue to do so hour after hour, day by day without ceasing, **CONFIRMING YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD, regardless of what may be going on upstairs in your mind and emotions.**

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES OUR NEW BIRTH IS IRREVERSIBLE**

THIS WITNESS IN YOU ALSO TELLS YOU THAT **ONCE YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD YOU WILL FOREVER BE A CHILD OF GOD** & NOTHING CAN EVER CHANGE THAT, **no matter how you feel emotionally ...**

**If we know this we will be anchored.**

*I have a large palm tree on my property that was blown over. It happened some years ago but I left it lying horizontal in the bush. However, I noticed that it didn't die. I realised that this was because its roots were still secure in the ground and this dear tree has kept on flourishing with beautiful new leaves ever since ... even though it is horizontal.*

**THIS IS LIKE SOME CHRISTIANS. EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE KNOCKED DOWN, THEY CANNOT BE UPROOTED AS WE ARE ROOTED & GROUNDED IN HIS LOVE ... (see Ephesians 3:17) THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY SAFE & SECURE FOREVER.**

**NO CIRCUMSTANCE ... NO FAILURE ON OUR PART, CAN REVERSE OUR NEW BIRTH ... EVEN IF WE ARE HORIZONTAL.**

**ONCE YOU ARE BORN TO THE FATHER YOU CANNOT BE UNBORN.**

John 10:29 **SLIDE**

*My Father, who has given [you ] to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch [you] out of My Father's hand.***

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES OUR NEW BIRTH IS UNCONDITIONAL**

**This verse doesn't say, He witnesses to us that we are children of God when we are walking right and living right.**

The Holy Spirit doesn't do this as a confirmation that God is pleased with us because we are living right. This has nothing at all to do with how much you are living for God or working for God ...

**THIS HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH WHO WE ARE IN GOD AND WHO WE ARE TO GOD.**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO PERFORM TO BE HIS CHILD ... YOU ARE BORN INTO IT.**

**Galatians 3:26** SLIDE

*... You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus*

**1 John 3:1** Berean Study Bible

*Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that **we should be called children of God**. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.*

**John 1:12** Berean Study Bible

*But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.*

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WITNESS IS MUTUAL**

**Romans 8:16** SLIDE

*The Spirit Himself bears witness **with** our spirit that we are children of God.*

**THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES WITH OUR SPIRIT ... NOT JUST TO IT ... BUT WITH OUR SPIRIT. OUR SPIRIT ALSO KNOWS WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. THE TWO ARE IN 100% AGREEMENT ... UNITED TOGETHER ...**

**testifies with** (*symmartyrei*) Verb - Present Indicative Active, bears witness together with, testifies jointly, corroborates by evidence.

*Someone said to me the other day, 'I feel like God has too many other, more important issues to deal with rather than my problem! I'M NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH' ...*

**GOD DOES NOT CONSIDER YOU UNIMPORTANT ... HE'S UNITED WITH YOUR SPIRIT ... HE'S NOT TOO BUSY FOR YOU ... HE'S GOT YOU ... HE'S CONTINUALLY TESTIFYING TO YOU WHO YOU ARE & WHOSE YOU ARE.**

**THE PROBLEM IS ... WE'RE OFTEN NOT CONSCIOUS OF IT ...**

**THE OUTSIDE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SO LOUD & WE ARE SO USED TO THE SURFACE LIFE THAT WE DO NOT SENSE THE REJOICING THAT OUR SPIRIT & THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE TOGETHER AS THEY UNITE IN THIS AMAZING TRUTH ... YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD.**

There is a wonderful declaration of your New Birth going on inside you ... continually ...

**There is incredible joy exploding as your spirit and the Holy Spirit rejoice in this truth.**

There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents and that joy is continued inside you ...

This rejoicing is ongoing deep inside you ...

**AN ANOMILY**

In your head your emotions may be melting down – your brain might be struggling to make sense of it all ... you might start doubting who you are ... thinking you're a second rate citizen ... especially now ...

*I started to feel unclean shopping the other day as people looked at me cautiously and made a wide birth around me ... Some wouldn't look at me or even acknowledge what I said ...*

Emotionally you might feel like you are abandoned ... alone ... unwanted ... unloved ... BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT & YOUR SPIRIT ARE DANCING FOR JOY IN WHO YOU ARE ... IN WHOSE YOU ARE ...

*If we can begin to sense this fellowship inside ... it won't matter what goes on upstairs ...*  
***WE WILL NOT BE MOVED.***

*You might have fallen into sin or failed somehow and feel guilty ...*

***BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WITNESS IS UNWAVERING ... INCESSANTLY TESTIFYING ... YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE LIVING GOD ... THE HOLY ONE ... IT IS WHO YOU ARE ...***

*So no matter how you may feel emotionally or what you may be trying to understand mentally ... UNDERSTAND THIS ONE THING ... If you are born again ... GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK DEEP WITHIN YOU.*  
***THIS IS THE CONTROL CENTRE OF GOD'S OPERATION.***

- THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES OUR NEW BIRTH IS **RELATIONAL**

NB: THE HOLY SPIRIT DOESN'T SAY WE ARE BELIEVERS OR CHRISTIANS, EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ... **HE SAYS WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN NOT GOD'S BELIEVERS ...**

Romans 8:16 **SLIDE**

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children** of God.*

- **A CHRISTIAN** IS A PERSON WITH A TITLE THAT DEFINES WHAT THEY BELIEVE & HOW THEY LIVE
- **A SON OR DAUGHTER** IS SOMEONE WITH A RELATIONSHIP TO A FATHER

THERE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE AS TO HOW A SON OR DAUGHTER APPROACHES A PROBLEM AND A PERSON WITH A TITLE APPROACHES A PROBLEM:

- **A CHRISTIAN** CAN APPROACH A PROBLEM BY PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER, FASTING, RIGHT LIVING ETC ...
- **A SON OR DAUGHTER** BRINGS THE PROBLEM TO THEIR FATHER & LETS THEIR FATHER DEAL WITH IT

## STOP TRYING TO BE A CHRISTIAN & BE A CHILD OF THE FATHER.

*A lady this past week was going through a time of anxiety and shared with me that she was praying and reading the Word but getting nowhere ... **She said she was supposed to be an example because she was a Christian.***

*However, I felt the Holy Spirit impressing me to tell her to **'stop trying to be a Christian and stop praying'**.*

*It sounds strange but consider the trap we get ourselves into ... when circumstances are surrounding us ... We think our prayers will get us out ... So we pray desperate prayers thinking the Prayers are what God wants and they are the answer ... But we don't really believe in our hearts ... But we feel it's all we can do ...*

### Matthew 6:8 **SLIDE**

*... **Your Father knows** the things you have need of **before you ask Him.***

### THE MATURE CHRISTIAN

So the struggling Christian finally turns to their Father God. They walk in with a scar on their cheek ... a black eye ... their arm in a sling ... and hair dishevelled. The Father is delighted to see them and asks, 'How are you doing?'

'Ah! Not so good, God', they say, 'But I've been battling through.'

'I can see that', says the Father. 'How's that going for you?'

'Ah, not too good ... But if you want ... I'll keep battling through.'

Father says, **'Why don't you just come home and let me do it for you. You've been doing it so tough out there all on your own!'**

'But God', they say, **'I'm growing up** and I am becoming independent as a mature Christian does ...'

He replies, 'But child ... that is NOT how you grow with Me ... That's the way the world does it. **WITH ME YOU GROW IN GRACE AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS** (2 Peter 3:18) YOU KNOW WHAT GRACE IS DON'T YOU? GRACE DOES FOR YOU WHAT YOU CANNOT DO FOR YOURSELF. **IT IS NEVER INDEPENDENT OF ME** ... JESUS SAID, "WITHOUT HIM I CAN DO NOTHING ..." **THE MATURE SON OR DAUGHTER DOESN'T GROW INDEPENDENT OF ME THEY GROW MORE DEPENDANT UPON ME THE MORE MATURE THEY BECOME'**.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES TO US THAT GOD IS OUR FATHER**

Galatians 4:6 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

... Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

**YOU NOW HAVE A LOVING FATHER ...**

**A FATHER OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ... A FATHER OF UNLIMITED PROVISION ...**

**A FATHER OF UNCONTESTED PROTECTION ... A FATHER OF UNCONDEMNING UNDERSTANDING ...**

## **LOOK WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE FATHER**

**Matthew 6:31-32** Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... ***Do not be anxious***, saying, 'What shall we eat?' Or 'What shall we drink?' Or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>***For the Gentiles seek after all these things. For your Heavenly Father knows that you have need of them all.***

**IT'S TIME TO BE GOD'S CHILD AND LET GOD BE YOUR FATHER.**

## **LET GOD BE YOUR FATHER**

**2 Corinthians 6:18** **SLIDE**

**I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.**

***LET YOURSELF BE LOVED BY THE FATHER  
YOU MUST BECOME VULNERABLE  
YOU MUST ADMIT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU  
ADMIT YOUR NEED***

## **TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF HOSEA**

**SLIDE**

***When Israel was a child, then I loved him as a son.  
With comforting words I led him by the river of peace ...  
Picked him up ... dandled him upon my knee.  
I taught him as a little child ... I taught him how to walk ...  
I held him in my arms ...***

**SLIDE**

***OH HOW COULD I GIVE YOU MY EPHRAIM ...  
HOW COULD I LET YOU GO  
HOW COULD I FORSAKE YOU ...  
MY HEART CRIES OUT WITHIN ME  
HOW I LONG TO HOLD YOU***

***(Steve Apirana)***

## **SUPPLIMENTARY**

**DON'T PRAY PANIC PRAYERS**

***MOSES AT THE RED SEA was in an intolerable situation which God had led him into.  
Moses cried out to God.***

Now most Christians would say that was the right thing to do.

Moses was praying earnestly ...

**DID GOD HEAR HIM? Yes!**

**DID GOD ANSWER HIM? YES!**

**HE BASICALLY SAID ... SHUT UP MOSES ... GIVE ME A BREAK MOSES ...**

**DON'T YOU KNOW WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE ...**

**DON'T YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE ...**

**STAND STILL ... STOP IT!**

**STOP PRAYING PANIC PRAYERS ... THEY ARE NOT IN FAITH ...**

**STOP STRIVING ...**

**DON'T LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ...**

**LOOK AT ME ...**

**I AM YOUR FATHER ... YOU ARE MY CHILD ...**

**AND NOTHING BY ANY MEANS SHALL HURT YOU.**

**STOP TRYING TO BE A CHRISTIAN ... TO BE GOOD ...**

**GIVE UP YOUR CONCERNS TO YOUR FATHER ...**

***Friends, PRAYERS ARE NOT THE ANSWER ...***

***GOD HIMSELF IS THE ANSWER ...***

***AND COMING TO THE END OF FUTILE PRAYERS IS THE DOORWAY INTO HIS GRACE.***

***WHEN I HAVE PRAYED MY LAST 'FAITHLESS PRAYER' I AM READY FOR GOD'S GRACE ...***

***You don't have to make an appointment to see Him ...***

***He's your Dad ...***

***He's never too busy to see you ...***