

The Ministry & Person of the Holy Spirit

By Lloyd T. Anderson

Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson:

We're happy again friends to share with you the continuing study of the ministry and the person of the Holy Spirit. You remember our last two encounters together we shared not only His personality, not only the fact that He operated in the Old Testament, but they also fact that He truly and certainly had a part in the ministry of men and women around the world. And so it's wonderful to know that the Spirit of God deals in our hearts day by day. We shared with you, you'll recall, the fact that the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament is active in creation and in the material universe, And of course, He was always active, as we related it to you, in the nation of Israel both in her past history, and we do believe in the present, and certainly we also believe in the days which are yet before us. But I wanted to share with you today the fact that out of the Word of God, we have the Spirit of God dealing expressly with the individual and it is about this particular phase and fast set of the Spirit's work that we want to speak for just a moment. But before we do may we simply have a word of prayer together?

Our Father, we thank thee this morning as our eyes are open to thy truth that Thou art able to take our lives and use them for thine honor and glory. We thank thee, Heavenly Father that Jesus Christ is on the throne; the Holy Spirit the comforter has come into the world to teach us all things, and as we live unto thee we thank Thee that the Spirit of God takes our lives and He uses them for Thine honor and glory. Bless any who listen and today we ask that their lives shall

be truly in conformity with Thy purpose and will. For we ask it in Jesus name and for His sake.
Amen.

Yes this is Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in West Covina. As we take the place of Dr. Talbot for just a few moments, and we trust you'll be much in prayer for this great servant of the Lord as he labors for Christ in our own area and in other areas in Bible conferences and in evangelistic meetings. As we said a moment ago we were going to speak to you today about the Holy Spirit as He relates Himself to the life of the individual as recorded in the Word of God. While the Holy Spirit's ministry and the Old Testament was very dominant in the life of the nation of Israel as a whole, He by no means overlooked the individuals who composed the nation of Israel. And so as you go through the Old Testament, you will find expressions that go something like this with relationship to the Holy Spirit: He clothed himself with, He came upon, He came mightily upon, He was abiding in, and he was fitting for service. Now all of these expressions emphasized the fact of the external ministry of the Holy Spirit. Herein lies the most striking contrast between His relationship to men under the old covenant, and His relationship to men under the new. Under the old covenant in the Old Testament hour, His work upon individuals was more trenchant. That is He would come upon for a certain task or even a certain purpose, and then He would leave when all of this had been accomplished. In the New Testament however, His relationship to the individual is always internal, it's always constant, and it is always abiding. And I'm sure we need to go of course to the Gospel According to St. John. And in the 14th chapter of this wonderful indivisible book of the New Testament, we find the Lord, Jesus Christ, as He speaks to us of this very facet of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer: "And I will pray the Father and He will give you another comforter, that He may abide with you forever. Even the spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive,

because it seeth Him not neither knoweth Him but ye know Him for He dwelleth you, and He shall be in you." now there you have the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament; its internal, its constant, and it abides forever.

But in the Old Testament, however, the Spirit of God we must remember is always sovereign. He comes to whom He will, and when He will, and often His coming is sudden, and unexpected, and unsolicited. He may leave as suddenly as He came under the Old Testament. Men never ask for Him they; never prayed for His coming. You remember that Jesus Christ spoke in John Chapter 3 to Nicodemus. He said "the wind bloweth where it listeth, and ye cannot tell from whence it cometh, or whether it go it, and so is the Spirit of God." Now our Lord reminded us out of John 3, in that particular verse I've quoted to you, that the operation of the Holy Spirit was like the wind, which blew where it blew. We might hear the sound, but we couldn't tell from whence it came or whether it was going to go. You see the Holy Spirit had a mind of His own; and He exercised divine sovereignty and all of His wonderful operations. Now this is exactly why we have one word in the Old Testament which some people find very, very difficult to understand. You remember in Psalm 51 and verse 11, it is the psalmist who cries out and who prays this word that certainly has made us wonder about a good many things. He said, "Take not thy Holy Spirit from me." Now certainly this is in the Old Testament, first of all, and it all came from the lips of the Psalmist because this was the very nature of His relationship to people in the Old Testament time. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me. He would come upon them and He would leave them again when the work for which He had come upon them was now finished, in the Old Testament day.

Now as you look into this matter in more detail in our study of the Holy Spirit and the Old Testament, I think we need to remember that, first of all, the Holy Spirit is the spirit of real

striving. You remember with me, in Genesis chapter 6: times were getting ripe, and the flood was about to come and Noah and his family were told to build them are in which they were going to ride out the flood. And in the 6th chapter of the Book of Genesis is a very interesting reference, and to it I would like to have you come for just a moment: "and it came to pass when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were fair. And they took them why was of all which they chose. And the Lord said," and this is the verse I want you to know "my spirit shall not always strive with men, for that He is also flesh. yet His days shall be a hundred and twenty years." now in the 3rd verse of Genesis Chapter 6, The Spirit of God is referred to under the Old Testament economy as the spirit of striving. Now this refers, of course, to His activity in the antediluvian world, the world that preceded the flood; A world that was fast plunging into iniquity sin and corruption. The imagination of men's heart was only evil continually. We read in the scripture "the imagination of men's hearts and their minds was apostate, and the Spirit of God began to strive with these sinful and with these iniquities people" in the Old Testament. He tried to throw His restraint about their life censures an ungodly lives, which were fast ripening into the judgment of God. The words strive we understand in the Hebrew language means simply, "to judge." to bring the charge of guilt against, is the meaning of this word strive. By bringing the charge of guilt home to the hearts of these people in Genesis 6 the Spirit of God sought to restrain them and their evil ways. He also used Noah as a preacher of righteousness to further retard the spread of evil in his own generation. Oh, my friends, how much we owe to this same restraining Spirit today. We cannot possibly realize the full extent of His striving in the hearts of men and women in our own generation, or His beneficent restraints removed right now. What a moral whirlpool, and chaos, and maelstrom would ensue. There is no doubt but that He, The

Holy Spirit, is the most potent factor and holding back the progress and the development of evil in any generation. But in the Old Testament, He was called the spirit that would not always strive with men.

And then I think we need to turn today to The Book of Exodus in Chapter 31. for in the 31st chapter of Exodus you have the building of the Old Testament Tabernacle, and there you will have Him referred to as the Spirit of Wisdom in Exodus 31 and beginning with verse 3: "and I have filled him with the Spirit of God; in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship." You see here the Holy Spirit is represented as giving wisdom from the work that God was calling His people to do. Giving men the skill and the ability to do effectively the delicate workmanship on the materials that were used for the construction of the Tabernacle. Even Pharaoh, king of Egypt, in the presence of Joseph had to ask an outstanding question "can we find such a man as this, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?" He seemed to sense that this ungodly, pagan, Pharaoh of Egypt that the truth that was stated here is from God Himself and the Spirit of God is the Spirit of wisdom. In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 34, and keeping with the same thought, in the 9th verse, it is stated these words that, "Joshua the son of Nun, was full of the Spirit of Wisdom." Thus God's men in the Old Testament were made wise to do God's work. The Spirit is still today the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding. He is wiser than the natural minds of men, however highly cultivated, and intellectual, and intelligent they might possibly be. You see, your weakness and mine is that we lean too much on the wisdom of man, Instead of seeking the wisdom of the Spirit of God. You and I are often prone to have too much confidence in our own judgment, too much confidence in our own ability, rather than the perfect wisdom that comes down from above. You remember the book of James alludes to it: "If any man lacks, wisdom let him ask of God."

And then it's interesting to notice that not only in the Old Testament is the Spirit of God the Spirit of Striving, and the Spirit of Wisdom, but He is also the Strengthening Spirit in the book of Judges. And I think you'll want to take time to read it through in your own personal bible study; the Holy Spirit is seen imparting strength to men and women in places of leadership during those awful, trying days of the Judges. In chapter 3 and in verse 10, we read that the Holy Spirit came upon a man whose name was Othniel. In Chapter 6 and verse 34 of the book of Judges, We read that the Spirit of God comes upon a man whose name is Gideon. In chapter 11 and verse 29, He comes upon Jephthah. And in chapter 13 of Judges and verse 25, He begins to move upon a man whose name was Sampson, giving him supernatural strength. And so He was the Spirit of Strength and of Courage; making men mighty and victorious leaders in those wild, and chaotic, and disorganized days of the Old Testament.

as the apostle Paul thinks of the Ephesians Christians, recorded by him in the book of Ephesians in the New Testament, and surrounded by the darkness as they were of heathenism, and supernatural foes they had to face, It was the apostle Paul who prayed that these people who love the Lord might be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inward man. You see the same Spirit in this wonderful age of His indwelling, puts strength into wobbly spiritual needs and courage into vacillating hearts.

Then we need to remember, that the Holy Spirit, too, is called The Spirit of Prophetic Utterance in the book of Numbers Chapter 11 and verse 25. We read very clearly something that is intensely interesting; Numbers chapter 11 and here in the 11th chapter and in the 25th verse, Moses is in relation to the 70 elders of the people of Israel, and the Lord came down in a cloud and spake unto Moses, and took of the Spirit that was upon him and gave it unto the 70 elders. And it came to pass that when the Spirit rested upon the 70, they prophesied and they did not

stop their prophesying. You see, here the Spirit that was upon Moses came upon the 70 elders and they began to prophesy. A young man, hearing Eldad and Medad, two of these elders prophesying under the inspiration of the Spirit, rushed up to Moses in our scripture and they said "forbid them." And Moses said "would That all Jehovah's people were prophets that Jehovah would put His spirit upon them."

It is glorious to think that at, on the day of Pentecost the wish of Moses way back in Numbers 11:25, and 26, and 27, was realized when the new testament church was brought into existence. You see the profits of the Old Testament were men who, guided by the same Holy Spirit, wrote of things that were yet to come. If you have your Bibles, turned with me to the Book of 2 Peter momentarily. And in this wonderful second book that bears Peter's name, you have in chapter 1 and in verse 21 this word: "for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." You see, the Holy Spirit moved men to write the contents of the Word of God. And these prophets in the Old Testament who did the writing of much of it, realized that the Spirit of God was speaking through them as they wrote. way back in the book of Nehemiah, and in chapter 9 and in verse 30, is the interesting word concerning this very thing, "Yet many years didst thou forbear them and testifiedst against them by the Spirit in thy prophets, yet would they not give ear: and therefore gavest thou unto them into the hand of the people of the lands." Here you see there speaking about the history of Israel; how they would not repent. They would not live for the Lord. And the Scripture says that the testimony against the people was given through the prophets by the Holy Spirit. Now these words take issue with the liberal conception today that the writings of the Old Testament were only the best Jewish thought of their own generation.

I think we need to remember that the New Testament confirmation of the Spirit's speaking in the Old Testament, come to us again, and again, and again, and again. For example, in the book of 1 Peter, and I think here again we ought to turn to this marvelous scripture, in 1 Peter and Chapter 1 verses 10 and 11, you have Peter as he relates to us the problem we've just mentioned in your presence this morning. He's talking about salvation in the Lord, of which salvation says Peter, "The prophets have inquired and searched diligently who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them," you see, "did signify, when it was testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." What an interesting scripture. Here the old testament prophets are filled with, and carried along by, and motivated by the Holy Spirit as He tells them, and teaches them, and shows them what ought to be written down. Thus it is evident that the prophecies referring to future events, which are impossible for any man to know in that Old Testament day, did not originate in the human mind. But Old Testament men, holy men if you please, spake as they were moved along by the Holy Spirit.

Then He's called also, I think we ought to remind ourselves of this fact, The Spirits of Regeneration or Salvation. When Jesus Christ said unto Nicodemus "ye must be born again" and the ruler of the Jews, whose name as I have just said, is Nicodemus answered back, "How can these things be?" He was puzzled you see, about the words of the Lord, Jesus Christ. And back to him comes this rebuke by the Savior, "art thou a master of Israel and knowest not these things?" And he was very clearly implying, was Jesus, that Nicodemus who knew the Old Testament scriptures should be familiar with a fact of a new birth. Such possibility is clearly indicated way back in the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah. In Chapter 31 and in verses 31 the 34, let me read them to you if I might, "'Behold the days come', sayeth the Lord, 'that I will make a new

covenant with the House of Israel and with the house of Judah. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, which my covenant they break, Although I was in husband unto them,' sayeth the Lord. 'But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel: After those days,' sayeth the Lord, 'I will put my law in their inward parts, and will write it in their hearts, and will be their God and they shall be my people; and they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother saying know the Lord, for they shall all know me from the least of the men to the greatest of them.' sayeth the Lord, 'for I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more.'" then in Ezekiel Chapter 36 and Ezekiel chapter 37; the 4th chapter of the Book of Romans Very clearly, my friends, points out one thing: that justification by faith was known in the old testament day, and is not exclusively a new testament church and biblical doctrine. Yes, the Old Testament prophets wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit of the Living God.

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, writing a number of years ago concerning this very thing, said that "the Spirit of God was the Spirit of Conviction, while sin was working out from the fall unto the flood. He was the Spirit of detailed Service while the people of God were being organized into a nationality. He was the Spirit of Strength, while the people were fighting for the land and were casting out those who had deeply sinned. and He became the spirit of Hope When God's people, Israel, had passed through a condition of apostasy and wandering, and He lighted the horizon with a glow of an approaching day." that's a wonderful word from Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, great Bible teacher of years gone by concerning the Holy Spirit.

Now coming to the close of this phase of our bible study for just a moment, before we come to the Spirit of God in another study and look at Him as the spirit of Christ, we would use

the words of Zechariah 4 and verse 6: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, sayeth of the LORD of hosts." you see, in this particular word there was the promise of the Spirit's assistance in the rebuilding of the destroyed Temple. There was the promise of His ability to bring it to a successful completion. And my friends, this is also the word for today. That same Spirit of God living, and moving, and pulsating, and energizing in the Old Testament is just as indispensable in the life and the activity of the New Testament church today.

Oh, that we who stand behind the pulpit, and you who are seated in the pew, and walk up and down the lanes of this world to witness for Jesus Christ. Oh, that we had a renewed confidence, and surrender, and reliance upon this Almighty One who is the Spirit of the living God. Who alone is able to lead us to victory and triumph in the things that have to do with our working for him? Yes, the Holy Spirit of God is certainly, that not only the third member of the trinity of the Godhead, but He is the Spirit of conviction; He is the Spirit of Salvation, and He it is who brings to pass and the lives of men and women, This glorious and this wondrous thing which can be done by none, Save Himself. Yes the Spirit of God is moving in the hearts of men and women today. Isn't it your desire, my friends, as I know it to be mine that the Spirit of God should have more of you, and have more of me? You see you and I, if we believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation, will never receive any more of the Holy Spirit than we already have. But the thing that we need to remember, is that the Spirit of God wants to have more of you and me. Now this results in the filling of the Holy Spirit, as we're going to see in a lesson a little bit later on. But, oh, that we together might be so yielded to God, that the Spirit of God will take our lives and use them for His own honor and for His own glory.

These are days of real apostasy; these days when upon the horizon of the current events of the world many, many, many things are quickly, graphically, catastrophically, cataclysmically

taking place. And yet how wonderful to relax and say "Oh Lord God, I'm going to do everything I can to win men and women to Thee, take my life and let it be holy consecrated, Lord to thee." And it's the Holy Spirit who takes your life as you yield it and as you dedicate it to Him, and He in turn consecrate you to the service of the Lord.

Well it's been wonderful spending these few moments with you today. I trust that the Lord's blessing will be upon your life. And if it should be that you live out in the area of West Covina you do not have a church home, we cordially invite you to attend Bethany Baptist Church in 3903 in North Irwindale in West Covina. I have the joy of being the pastor of that fine congregation, and God is moving in our midst.

Our Father, we thank Thee today for Thy grace and for Thy blessing upon our lives. We praise Thee that Jesus Christ is all in all to every believing heart, for we ask it in His name and for His sake. Amen.

Announcer 1:

We pray that Thou will bless this broadcast, bless those that have tuned in, those that know Thee not. We pray that the challenge of thy word may go forth to their hearts that they may seek Christ as the only way, the only truth, they only life, and realize that no man can come under the Father but by Him. And this we pray in Jesus name.

Announcer 2:

How helpful it's been to study God's Word today and to know more of the important truths which aren't taught in the scripture. We're happy to announce that the questions and answers you're hearing discussed through the month of November on the Bible Institute Hour,

are found in a brand new book we're offering to send absolutely free to all of our listeners. This book is published to help you with your spiritual growth, and also so that you may answer the questions of those with whom you may come in contact. Ask for the November book by writing the Bible Institute Hour Los Angeles 17, California. Those two words will suffice: "November book." but write today to the Bible Institute Hour, Los Angeles 17, California.

Announcer 3:

I'm sure you friends know that the Bible Institute of Los Angeles is a work of faith which carries on through the faithful stewardship of God's people. The Lord is blessed in this airways ministry for the past 25 years. Actually, just about as long as radio has been in existence. The Lord has enabled us here at Biola to present the testimony of Christ to millions of people through the years. We thank God for the spiritual victories which have been won in recent days, The men and women who have found Christ as Savior through these half hours, and countless others who have been restored to the faith having heard the message and the music of eternal life. But for just these closing few seconds, being very practical, as you probably well know we must pay regular commercial time for our broadcasting outlets. So we're asking our friends to help us carry the load by investing a portion of their tides and stewardship in this service. This is the Thanksgiving season of the year. Surely we need not look too far around us to see many things for which we have to be thankful. We're asking that you would be kind enough at this season to send in a special Thanksgiving offering for the work of the Lord in broadcasting the Gospel over the Bible Institute Hour. Our mailing address: Bible Institute Los Angeles 17, California. In this way, right there in your own community, neighborhood, and home you help us keep the Gospel on the air till Christ comes for us in the end. Watching his place he goes meatball Oh Al sand is

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reminding you there are many unanswered prayers because there are many unafraid prayers well
I'll be coming your way Monday at this same time.

[Biola Radio Hour Musical Outro]