



BUILDING CAPACITY

The Seven-Fold Spirit

HELPING US NAVIGATE THE NEW
YEAR

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A Heart of Wisdom

'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

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021!! May it be a blessed, healthy and fruitful year for us all in the name of Jesus.

Now that we have 'crossed over' to the 2021, one thing we should have taken away from 2020 is the fact that we cannot expect things to go back to what we were comfortable calling 'normal'. Uncertainties and numerous changes are here to stay.

How we handle the uncertainties of this year will play a strong role in the outcomes we experience. How do we then move in these interesting and uncertain times? How do we become comfortable expecting the unexpected?

The Lord who is the same yesterday, today and forever never leaves His children without help. He has equipped us with the spiritual enablement to navigate these times. This study we will be looking at the role of the Seven-fold Spirit in helping us navigate this season.

Stay connected.



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

'of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command' I Chronicles 12:32

Understanding brings a clear distinction to someone's life. When the spirit of understanding is active in our lives, we have access to 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 what is going on and therefore we are able to respond appropriately. When understanding is missing, there's no way we won't take the wrong steps in life.

'Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.' Luke 24:45

Beyond understanding seasons, we also need understanding of the scriptures. There are times we may read a passage without getting any insight from it, then we hear someone else talk about the same scripture with such depth and clarity we wonder if it's the same thing we were reading. When we're in the dark about the word or want to gain more depth, we should ask the Holy Spirit to open up our understanding to give us deep insights into the word.

'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

'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

When it comes to walking with God, we need understanding to keep in step with Him. Insight into His capacity and character can only come through the spirit of understanding as His ways are very different from our ways. As we gain this insight, then we are better equipped to know His will for our lives and how to go about executing it successfully.

Prayer: Lord, fill me with the spirit of understanding concerning Scripture, your will for my life 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 is a critical tool for thriving in this year. This is because the spirit of counsel gives us specific strategic direction. When this is in operation, we have divine insight into what we should be doing at any point in time. We will have complete clarity as to 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

Now more than ever we need divine help with knowing the way to go – uncertainty, darkness and bad news seems to be the order of the day. Yet in the midst of it all, the Lord preserves His own by giving us specific direction. When we function with divine counsel, we know which doors have been opened by the enemy and which have been opened by God because He gives us access to information in advance. 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 and insulated from the impact 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? The 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 you 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: Father, please fill me with your spirit of counsel, so I will have specific direction and know 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

It's one thing to know what to do, and a whole other thing to actually be able to do it. When the Lord gives us insight into His plans for us with the wisdom and understanding to navigate what needs to be done, He also equips us with the spirit of might to enable us actually do it. As flesh alone we are extremely limited. But the Lord makes His power available to us, so we are able to work in His strength rather than depend 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

'As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.' 1 Corinthians 1:29 NLT

Here the Bible is advising 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 is because He didn't design us to function in our own strength, but to lean on Him and have His strength work through us. If we could do everything by ourselves, we would start thinking that we don't need God and may even start equating ourselves to Him. But the Bible makes it clear that we can't ever boast in His presence because we will encounter situations in life that will bring us face to face with our limitations. So He 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

What does the spirit of might do for us? It equips us with physical strength and stamina, such that we're able to continue with the assignment God has given us at times when we ordinarily would have been worn out. It also equips us with the mental fortitude to continue in spite of the barriers and challenges we may face in the process. The spirit of might also makes the supernatural possible in our actions. Miracles, signs and wonders would be impossible in human strength.

Prayer: Lord fill me with your spirit of might, help me to walk in your unlimited strength and power so your plans for my life will be executed to perfection.



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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