



Dear Friends,

Need Prayer? Call us at 530-520-2717

We are entering the second part of 2021 and just finished celebrating the 4th of July here in the states! This is such a fun time of year where we can gather together and remember the sacrifices that so many brave men and women have made for us, our country and our precious freedoms! We never take those sacrifices for granted! And we certainly don't take our freedom lightly! We are honored to live in a country where we can freely worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Although we witnessed many restrictions and changes occurring to the Church around the world during COVID times, we must continue to pray and fight for our precious freedom by consistently allowing the Word of God to fill us up every day. We can't fight the good fight of faith without being armed with the full armor of God and the WORD of God! (Ephesians 6).

Isn't it a great feeling to be free? We have freedom in the natural world but we also have freedom in Jesus. And that freedom was bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus. Freedom isn't "free;" we know that. Someone had to fight for the freedom that we enjoy today. In the same way, spiritual freedom from sin and death isn't free either. Jesus paid the ultimate price for you and I to receive forgiveness and to live in total freedom of the penalty of sin and death. Wow! We have so much to be grateful for! So, how can we ever repay Jesus for being the ultimate sacrificial Lamb and dying in our place? There is only one answer to that dear friends- obedience. Jesus wants nothing more than our love and obedience (1 Sam 15:22). And this is just what we want to talk to you about this month!

We're continuing on the subject of the Holy Spirit for the last couple of months because there is so much to talk about and this subject is so important especially in the times we're living in! Wouldn't you agree? This month we shift our focus from the role of the Holy Spirit as our helper, guide and comforter and the topic of speaking in tongues **to what our** role is as believers. This is such an important topic; you do not want to miss this teaching! Let's start with the story of Peter in Acts chapter 10. Some of us may be familiar with this part of Scripture but let's refresh our memory.

Peter was on the roof getting ready to pray around noon when he fell into a trance and the Spirit of God visited him. This is what Peter saw,

He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven. (Acts 10:11-16).

In order to understand the impact this must have had on Peter, we have to understand during that time it was unlawful for a Jew to enter into a Gentile's home or even associate with Gentiles (v 28). When Peter saw this vision of unclean animals, his first reaction was to disassociate himself from it because they were considered "unclean" exactly like the Jews considered the Gentiles. But when the power of the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost, as we talked about in the May newsletter, it was a game changer for the apostles and all who were gathered in the upper room. They no longer considered the age-old forbidden custom between Jew and Gentile, they were now so filled with the Holy Spirit and so ready to be obedient to His voice, that said they were all equal in the eyes of God. And this was the case with Peter in Acts chapter 10 after the Lord showed Him that vision. The story goes on to explain that Cornelius, a Gentile, also had an angelic visitation where he was told to go find Peter and invite him over as his guest. In short, Peter was obedient to the Holy Spirit and went into Cornelius' home, preached the Gospel to all his family, relatives and friends who were present. Verse 44 tells us that the "Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the Word" (Acts 10:44). As a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they were also baptized in water. Through Peter's obedience, salvation came to the home of a Gentile and the Gospel began to spread far and wide. This fulfilled the words of Jesus in John chapter 10 verse 16 which says, *And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.* (John 10:16).

What if Peter had been disobedient to the Holy Spirit that day? Things would have turned out very differently for Cornelius and those who were in his home. But thank God for Peter's obedience! The Bible tells us that we are to be doers and not hearers only. Many times, God will tell us to do something that doesn't feel comfortable or doesn't make sense in the natural and stretches our faith. These are the moments where we don't rely on our own understanding but we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us by faith. Do you remember Apostle Paul when he was Saul? We all know the story of how Saul was transformed on the road to Damascus after losing his sight for 3 days. But do you know whose obedience we often forget in that story? Ananias. We tend to forget that without the obedience of Ananias, Paul would not have received his sight. It was certainly an act of obedience to the Holy Spirit that led Ananias to where Saul, the murderer of the Lord's disciples, was. And more than that, he laid his hands on Saul, turned Paul, and his sight was recovered. What an amazing example of obedience! After that encounter, Apostle Paul's life was never the same again. (See Acts chapter 13 to read about one of Paul's experiences after his life was drastically changed by Jesus and he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit).

Has the Holy Spirit been nudging you to do something? Have you given Him permission to work through you? Maybe He is asking you to do something that will really stretch your faith like it's never been stretched before! Or it may be that you have been praying for something and the Holy Spirit has been telling you that it's not the right time, yet... He simply wants you to be still and listen for further instructions. Whatever the case may be, you and I are to simply listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him. The Holy Spirit is here to give us instruction and direction. Our job as believers is to say, *Yes, Lord*.

From the very beginning of our Ministry, we have allowed the Holy Spirit to guide us and we have followed His sweet instructions. A specific story we want to share with you is one before we entered into this Ministry. The year was 1987 and we were living in Southern California. We had a business and it was very successful. We were working day in and day out to support our family of five. We knew that God had brought us to America and that we had a calling on our lives. One day, in the late afternoon when John was at work, Alexandra was by herself at home with the kids cleaning the house, when the Lord spoke to her clearly and told her, "Do you remember why I protected your life and brought you to this land of freedom?" She replied, "To preach the Gospel, Lord." Then the Lord told her, "Start packing your home as soon as possible and be ready to leave when I give you further instructions." The Lord brought them to Northern California in a short period of time. From there, step by step, the Lord directed them to the location where the Ministry was born, Placerville, CA. The Lord still continues to guide and direct their footsteps today, daily!

We can all agree that we're living in the Last days and it is more important than ever before to be directed by and obedient to the Holy Spirit. There is so much going on with our freedoms being taken away, churches being attacked, people being divided, hate being taught and encouraged to our young children in schools and so much more. Divisions are being created on a global, national and personal scale. This is the devil's ploy to create separation and isolation. We may be let down or disappointed by the people in our lives. So, if we don't have a personal relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit and allow Him to guide us, we can easily be distracted and disappointed by what we see and experience. Our identity, our trust and our faith is not in our church, our pastor, our friends or our current situation. Our identity is in Christ alone! Period. You might be asking, *But how do I know when the Holy Spirit is speaking to me?* There is no way to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit from all the other voices in the world without being in the Word. We encourage you to stay in the Word daily by plugging into a faith based study, program, church and commune (pray) with our Heavenly Father daily. That's how you can distinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit from all the other voices. *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God* (Romans 10:17). The more you feed your spirit, the more clearly you'll hear from the Holy Spirit.

We know that we have repeated this many times but we have to say it again, we are here to pray with you and for you! We genuinely care about each one of our friends' and partners' needs and we do pray for you daily! Is there a specific need in your life that you need us to pray in agreement about? Please do not refrain from contacting us via email, phone call or social media! We are here for you! We've said it before and we'll say it AGAIN, we're so grateful for your purposeful seeds and prayers for this Ministry! If you feel the Holy Spirit is leading you to sow a seed, next month we will be talking more about how the Lord has been expanding our television Ministry in Italy! We can't wait to share it with you!

Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21 AMP).

In His Service,
John & Alexandra