



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Galatians

### Lesson 23 Holy Spirit Part 07

#### Work of the Spirit in You

**Galatians 3:1-3**, *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? <sup>2</sup>This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

In the last lessons we saw the first benefit of the Holy Spirit is

- Intimacy with God.
  - Enlightening the scripture.
  - Christ centred life
- 
- ✓ The Spirit of God gives us intimacy with God who is the resource for everything.
  - ✓ The Spirit of God illuminates the Word of God which gives us instruction on everything.
  - ✓ The Spirit of God glorifies Christ to us and in seeing the glorified Christ we become more and more the bearers of His glory.

- ✓ The Holy Spirit guides us into God's will.

The Scripture teaches that the Spirit of God not only reveals truth through Scripture, but the Spirit of God guides us personally.

Now it's the last one on this series of lessons and very important one.

## **The Holy Spirit ministers to us through other believers.**

We have looked in detail about the following.

- ✓ **Sufficiency of the Scriptures.**
- ✓ **Sufficiency of the Spirit.**

So, if we have the sufficiency of the scriptures and the Spirit then **why in the world we need to be ministered by others?**

If the Holy Spirit dwells in me and the Holy Spirit is sufficient then I am potentially sufficient, right?

You need some remediation.

Even though the sufficiency is there by potential it's not there in reality. God uses to stimulate my use of the spiritual sufficiency that is mine, the ministry that comes to me through

other believers. The Spirit of God ministers to us through other believers.

The Bible is very clear that it is essential for believers to associate together.

**Hebrews 10:23-25**, *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

V 23 the writer is concerned about continuity. Concerned about people who are consistent, or “faithful.”

The author wants faithful people who hold fast their confession, people who don't waver in their spiritual life.

### **How is this going to be affected?**

V 24, let us think carefully about how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.

### **How are we going to stimulate one another to love and good deeds?**

V 25, Not forsaking our own assembling together.

If we aren't together it's for sure we can't stimulate each other at all.

So, it's a fairly obvious assumption that we are to get together. We are to get together for the explicit purpose of stimulating one another for love and good works.

When we gather together in the church, the primary reason is to worship the Lord, but as long as you're here there is an outcome to that and that is that you are to be engaged in a stimulating ministry.

You may not feel very stimulating today but that is the ministry to which God has called you to stimulate others to love and good works.

You are to have that effect on other people, to bring about love in their life, to bring about righteousness in their life which is very basic.

**How do we help each other?**

**How do we stimulate each other?**

- ✓ We all have the Holy Spirit and access to God,
- ✓ We all have the Holy Spirit and an understanding of Scripture,
- ✓ We all have the Holy Spirit and all the glory of Christ as the model and authority,

✓ We all have the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit,

In spite of all of this attribute still we need this mutual stimulation that the church brings to bear. We need that level of accountability that righteous relationships can produce.

**Romans 12:4-8**, *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,<sup>5</sup> so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.<sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;<sup>7</sup> or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;<sup>8</sup> he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

**Analogy: Body.**

We have a body with a lot of members and none of the members do the same thing.

- My ears do one thing,
- my nose does one thing,
- my feet do another thing,
- my heart does another thing,
- my lungs do another thing; everything has a place.

My muscles are all different in every situation because they have a different function.

- ✓ **That's the way the body is.**
- ✓ **That's also the way the church is.**

We are one body in Christ and individually members for one another. Everybody has a function to serve one another, everybody.

We don't come here to sit and listen, we don't even come here to just worship.

We come here yes to worship, yes to listen, but in order to be stronger and more effective in being stimulators to other people around us.

V 6 says that we have been given different gifts.

Some of us have gifts regarding prophecy or speaking forth.

Some have gifts of service.

Some have gifts of teaching.

Some have gifts of exhortation, or giving, or leading, or showing mercy.

These are just differing categories of spiritual giftedness.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**, *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many,*

*are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.*

V 3, twice mentions the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit.

V 4, There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit. So, the Holy Spirit has dealt out varieties of gifts to the varying believers.

V 7, purpose, "To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

V11, "They may be differing gifts but the same Spirit," another gift but the same Spirit, another gift but the same Spirit. "One and the same Spirit works all these things."

**When I minister with my spiritual gift to you, who is working that gift?**

The Holy Spirit.

So, it is the Spirit who produces the ministry for the common good. The Holy Spirit ministers to us through other believers.

There are many other believers who minister to me. They minister to me the gifts of service, the gifts of leadership, the gifts of mercy, the gifts of faith which is tied, I believe, to prayer,

the gift of giving, and all of these various things. But it is all the Spirit's ministry.

A spiritual gift is nothing more than a channel through which the Holy Spirit ministers to the body. That's all.

V 7 sums it up. It is a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good to build the body.

So when I come to worship on the Lord's Day I come not only to exercise my gift for the purpose of stimulating you to love and do good works, I come not only to worship God, which is the priority, but I come also to allow the Spirit of God to minister to me through fellowship.

As they minister to us by the Spirit of God, through gifts of the Spirit of God doing that ministry.

Do you hear it that way?

Do you literally tune in to that kind of reality?

Do you take everything as a sort of a superficial situation?

Are you listening for the voice of the Spirit in the stimulating ministry that others might have for you?

For me personally most of the time God speaks to me or confirm His message during the worship time through the person who is leading.

- ✓ When somebody comes alongside and encourages you about your own life and your unfaithfulness in a certain area,
- ✓ When somebody comes along and encourages you about the need to study the Word of God more faithfully,
- ✓ When somebody encourages you about praying,
- ✓ When somebody encourages you about being with God's people,
- ✓ When somebody encourages you to get involved in a ministry, hands on,
- ✓ When someone comes along and ask you to serve Christ with all your heart,

Do you just sort of push that aside as somebody's opinion?  
Or are you listening to the Spirit of God coming to you through the exhortation of that believer?

That's a stimulator. That's how the Spirit of God is ministering to you.

The channel by which that ministry comes is love.

**Romans 5:5**, *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

When God gave us the Spirit, He gave us love. So, anyone who minister to you through the Spirit, the channel by which the Spirit minister gift comes is love.

**Romans 15:30**, *Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,*

Again, we can see that the Spirit and love are connected.

**2 Corinthians 6:6**, *by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,*

Genuine love in association with the Holy Spirit.

**Colossians 1:8**, *who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.*

Love is associated with the Holy Spirit and love is the channel through which a Spirit ministering gift flows.

That is why Paul says you are to speak the truth in love.

The ministry of the Spirit also comes to us in the “**one another**” of the New Testament.

When you read through the New Testament and you catalogue the "one another," then you will understand that you are getting in touch with the basic spiritual responsibilities we have toward each other.

- ✓ Love one another,
- ✓ Pray for one another,
- ✓ Edify one another,
- ✓ Comfort one another,
- ✓ Exhort one another,
- ✓ Rebuke one another,
- ✓ Reprove one another,
- ✓ Teach one another;

All of those are responsibilities of stimulation that are energized by the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 6:6**, *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.*

Now we come across a situation here where a Christian is caught in a trespass. He's fallen into some kind of sin.

**Galatians 6:1-4**, *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup>But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.*

V 1 "brethren," Paul does not say, here is a man who is caught, this man is trapped, this man is in bondage.

These days we may not call that as a bondage, but we call it as an addiction.

Paul does not say, "Look, you need to find a local Greek philosopher who can help him," doesn't say that.

He says, "Brethren," and he keeps it in the confines of the church, "even if a man is caught in a trespass addiction, you who are spiritual."

That's the bottom line.

"You who are spiritual restore such a one."

**Whose responsibility is the restoration of a person with an addiction?**

The church.

"Brethren, you who are spiritual, restore such a one and you do it in a spirit of gentleness and you look to yourself lest you also be tempted, you are to bear one another's burdens and thus you will fulfil the law of Christ."

**What is the law of Christ?**

It's the royal law, the law of love.

**John 13:34-35**, *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one*

*another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

## **Conclusion:**

The Bible doesn't teach anything whatsoever about any professional help for Christians in trouble.

All it talks about is Spirit-filled believers, brethren in a local assembly who are spiritual who minister together on behalf of that person.

Part of the reason that people have gone outside the church is because the church has failed to take the responsibility.

But I believe with all my heart that the Spirit of God ministers to His church through believers.

Brothers,

- ✓ You who are spiritual,
- ✓ You are already living in that dimension,
- ✓ You are walking in the Spirit,
- ✓ You are filled with the Spirit,
- ✓ You are controlled by the Spirit,
- ✓ You are praying in the Spirit,

You stoop down and begin the gentle process of restoration!

You bear one another's burdens and you will fulfil the law of Christ which is that we are to love one another.

You see, when people fall into traps of sin,

- despair,
- discouragement,
- depression,
- fornication,
- adultery,
- pornography,
- you name it,

The healing community is the church.

The brothers who are spiritual have the responsibility to deal with people. That's the only way the Bible knows to deal with those kinds of issues.

True biblical ministry to Christians in need is the process by which a Christian controlled by the Holy Spirit using prayer and the Word leads another believer to spirituality. That's all, nothing more.

There is no pragmatic human and psychological way to do that. Certainly, it is a ministry of the congregation and it's a ministry of one individual - The Holy Spirit.

