

Teaching in the Spirit

Rise Up, August 2021
presented by Jason Wilson

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. ~ 1 John 2:27 (NASB w. slight modification to conform to the Greek)

I. Biblical Basis

1. The new covenant

We have a good grasp of the Passover and sacrifice aspects of Jesus' death in inaugurating the new covenant. How about the explicit OT prophecies of the nature of the new covenant: the law of God written on our hearts (indwelling Spirit)?

- a. Jer 31:31-34; Ez 36:26-37
- b. Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25; 2 Cor 3:3-8

2. The gospel

We have a good grasp of some key elements of the gospel: I, the sinner, can be "saved" from my sins and eternity in hell by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus and go to heaven when I die. This offers freedom from guilt and shame, and it gives hope for living in our wicked world. Is this it? Or is there more?

- a. Gospel – John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have *eternal life*."
- b. What is *eternal life*? – John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they *may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ* whom Thou hast sent."
- c. What is it to *know Thee, ..., and Jesus Christ*? – John 17:20-23

3. The indwelling Spirit and indwelling Christ

There is a tendency in some circles to emphasize the outward aspect of the work of the Spirit to the neglect of the inward aspect. But when it comes to Christ, because the biblical emphasis is on Christ as external to us, we seem to almost miss altogether the reality of the biblical truth that Christ lives in us.

- a. Holy Spirit in Lukan theology (concept drawn from John Coe)
 - i. Outward
 1. People can be "filled with" the Spirit (Gr. *pimplemi*, Str. 4092)
 2. Luke 1:15, 41, 67; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9
 3. External empowerment for service
 4. This experience is ahead of the character of the believer
 - ii. Inward
 1. People can be "full of" the Spirit (Gr. *pleroo*, Str. 4137)
 2. Luke 4:1; Acts 6:3, 5, 8; 7:55; 11:24
 3. Inward transformative filling of the soul
 4. This experience is consonant with the character of the believer
- b. Christ

i. Outward

The majority of NT theology emphasizes the outward aspect of our relationship to Christ. For example: He is our Lord, Savior, Brother, Friend, Bridegroom, King, Judge, Apostle, Prophet, and High Priest; He died for our forgiveness of sins; He was raised for our newness of life; He ascended for the Spirit to come to us, and so on...

ii. Inward

There is a deeper, more intimate, more powerful relation to be had with Christ. It surpasses the outward (person-to-person) relationship.

1. Christ in us (John 14:16-17, 23; 17:21-23; Rom 8:6, 9-10; 1 Cor 2:16; Gal 2:20; 4:19; 5:15-25; Col 1:27; 3:4; Eph 3:17)
2. Vine and branches (John 15:1-8)
3. Husband-wife-union (1 Cor 6:16-17; Eph 5:28-32)
4. Temple (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19)
5. Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-27)

4. **New Testament indications that there are different levels of spiritual maturity**

The NT contains explicit passages which explicitly or implicitly refer to stages of maturity. In general, the more mature we are, the more spiritual efficacy the LORD is able to have working through us. Maturity is NOT necessarily correlated with the amount of positive spiritual experiences (e.g. sense of God's presence, answered prayer, etc.) one is having, nor with positive outward circumstances. The spiritual journey involves trials, valleys, or winter seasons to crucify our flesh and unite us with Christ, conformed to His image (Rom 6:11-13; 8:5-14; Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:8-14; 2 Cor 4:7-18).

- a. Levels or stages – 1 John 2:12-14
- b. "Spiritual" – Gal 6:1; 1 Cor 2:15
- c. "Perfect" – Phil 3:12-15
- d. "Strong" (mature) and "weak" (immature) brethren – Rom 14:1-23; 1 Cor 8:7-13
- e. Progression in the life of the apostle Paul (Chris Berglund)
 - i. Gal 2:6 (AD 49), 'I'm on par with the most eminent apostles.'
 - ii. 1 Cor 15:9 (AD 55), "I am the least of the apostles"
 - iii. Eph 3:8 (AD 60), "[I am] the very least of all saints"
 - iv. 1 Tim 1:15 (AD 65), 'I am the foremost of sinners'
- f. In Matt 5:3-10 the beatitudes are progressive

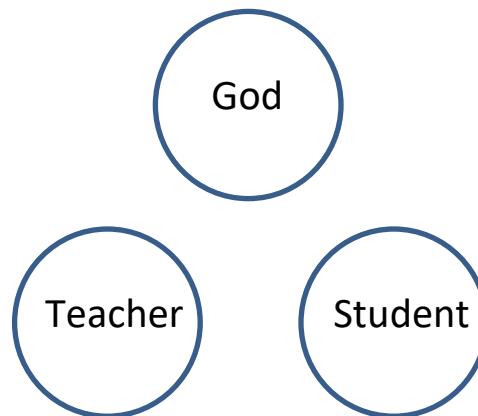
5. **New Testament teaching concepts**

Jesus didn't go around and "do ministry", He was the ministry. The key to teaching in the Spirit is to BE, not to DO.

- a. He promises to be with us (Mt 28:18-20)
- b. Apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:7)
- c. It is not us, but the LORD working through us (2 Cor 4:7)
- d. The goal is to get people to learn from God, not us (1 John 2:20,27; 1 Thess 4:9)

II. Principles of Teaching in the Spirit

God	Student
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Omniscient (Knows what is needed when and how much) 2. Loves His children (Desires to teach) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May or may not know the LORD 2. The above all apply to both, though the manifestation varies <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Believer – direct, can state that the goal is for them to connect to and learn from God (1 Jn 2:27) b. Unbeliever – indirect, may state that the goal is for them to become lifelong learners 3. Two means of learning <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. From us (Mt 10:24) b. Through Us (1 Cor 2:6-16)
Teacher	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empowered by God (mind of Christ, 1 Cor 2:16; empowered by Christ, Jn 15) – accessed by faith 2. Work as unto the LORD (Col 3:23; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Cor 15:58) 	



III. Application

1. God-Teacher
 - a. How are your spiritual ears? Is there anything hindering your relationship with God, or blocking your hearing?
 - b. Are you overly focused on DOING in the classroom, to the detriment of BEING the son or daughter of God He has called you to be?
 - c. What is the LORD saying to you about teaching in the Spirit?
2. Teacher-Student
 - a. In what ways do you teach in the Spirit? In what ways would you like to grow in teaching in the Spirit?
 - b. Do you pray for the LORD's help when preparing lessons, giving lectures, grading HW and doing all of the "teacher stuff"? Does God empower you in these things? Do you believe He wants to? Talk to Him about this.
3. God-Teacher-Student
 - a. Does the LORD speak through you to your students? Would you like Him to? Invite Him to do this in your classroom, in your office, and beyond....
 - b. Ask the LORD for one or two specific things to do in response to this workshop.