

Meet Your Senior Partner!

II Corinthians 13:14

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Spirit Strives Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." (NKJV)
2. The Spirit Saves Titus 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (NKJV)
3. The Spirit Sanctifies I Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. (NKJV)
4. The Spirit Seals 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (KJV)
5. The Spirit Strengthens Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, (NKJV)
6. The Spirit Searches 1 Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (KJV)

7. The Spirit Speaks I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, (NKJV)

THE WAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Among the nearly 300 Old and New Testament references to the Spirit, Perhaps the most profound is II Corinthians 13:14. Lets turn there to start this study.

2 Corinthians 13:14 ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (NASB)

It looks pretty normal until we zero in on that one word -- FELLOWSHIP. Yes, the well known Greek word, koinonia. But what does it mean? May I read the dictionary entry?

2842 koinonia {koy-nohn-ee'-ah}
 from 2844; TDNT - 3:797,447; n f
 AV - fellowship 12, communion 4, communication 1, distribution 1, contribution 1, to communicate 1; 20
 1) fellowship, association, community, communion, *joint participation*, intercourse
 1a) *the share which one has in anything, participation*
 1b) intercourse, fellowship, intimacy
 1b1) the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship
 (in fulfilling the apostolic office)
 1c) a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship

“Without straining the text, that is the staggering suggestion that the Third Person of the Trinity is willing to become the active, though secret, Partner of the disciple in his walk and witness.”¹

There is an arrestingly simple truth here. The Holy Spirit is in Partnership with us. He is a Partner, and may we say a SENIOR PARTNER? And beyond that, an INVISIBLE senior partner that has the majority interest?

¹ Sander, *Spiritual Discipleship*, p. 50.

Well, if you were going into partnership what are some things you would want to know?²

1. What they are like, personality and so on.

- Look at John 14:15-17
John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (NASB)

POINT ONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS JUST LIKE JESUS!

- Do we know the Holy Spirit? Its not to hard for us to get a feel for Jesus, as He walked, lived, suffered and dies for us. We know Jesus, but can we say with equal conviction we know Him, the Spirit of God equal in all aspects with the Father and Son, worthy of our love, respect, prayers and worship?
- Are we partaking in His promised daily partnership of help, or is He often just a shadowy, mystical influence?
- The good news is that Jesus uses a special word here. In Greek there are two words for 'another'. One means another of a different kind. The other, which Jesus uses here means, another of the same kind.
 - Now, look at John 16:7
John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. (NASB)

POINT TWO: THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT FOR OUR BENEFIT!

- Since Jesus sent Him to be our partner in daily life, shouldn't we do all we can to really get to know Him better?]

2. Another thing to know about our partner would be what his purposes and intentions were for the partnership.

- Look at John 16:14 and 17:4

John 16:14 "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose *it* to you. (NASB)

POINT THREE: THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT TO GLORIFY Christ IN US!

- There it is in 4 words! His purpose is to glorify Christ.

John 17:4 "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. (NASB)

POINT FOUR: THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SENT TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN FOR US!

- "The Holy Spirit has been sent to transact big business for the Kingdom of God, nothing less than to participate in the redemption of a lost world.
- In this vast enterprise He seeks our partnership as He oversees the interests of Christ on the earth...So long as our genuine ambition is to glorify Christ, we can count on the aid of our Senior Partner, whether in home, office, school or pulpit."
- Do you see why Christ said if you ask for anything, I will do it?
- If we want what He wants it awesome...

3. How about the details of the partnership?

- All business is done by the BOOK³! Mt. 4.4

A. There are 66 books:

1. Thats 39 in the Old Testament with 939 chapters and different Hebrew words

² This discussion is derived from Sanders material on pages 50-55.

³ Adapted from Moody, The Book.

2. And 27 in the new with 250 chapters and different Greek words
3. This translates into just over 6,000 different English words
4. No less than 2,930 people are mentioned (W.M. Smith)

I. Seven Reasons to Study God's Word are because it (JB):

1. REVEALS -- It discovers and convicts us of sin in our lives (John 16:7-10)
2. REMOVES -- Through it God's Spirit cleanses us from sin (John 17:17; Hebrew 9:14; 10:22)
3. RESTORES -- It imparts strength to our spiritual man (Jer. 15:16)
4. REMINDS -- It instructs us in going God's way (Rom. 15:4)
5. RESISTS -- It provides us a sword for victory over sin and temptations (Eph. 6:17)
6. REFINES -- It shapes us into a life that glorifies Him (I Peter 1:7; 2 Cor. 3:18)
7. REVIVES -- It drives us to prayerful dependence (John 15:7-8)

- The work is to be the CONSUMING PASSION of the partner. Mt 6.33

Matthew 6:33

1. Every desire of life must be tested in relation to the King.
2. Every decision must be made in the interest of the King.
3. Every duty must be performed for the pleasure of the King.
4. Every difficulty must be faced by trusting the King.
5. Every danger must be braved for the honor of the King.
6. Every dishonor must be endured for the sake of the King.
7. Every distraction must be ignored for the claims of the King.

- Absolute LOYALTY is required, 'he should not enter into secret alliances with the competitors --world, flesh, devil. I John 2;15-17
- Capital must be INVESTED by each. Romans 12:1, Col. 2:3, Gal 2.20