
Unveiled

Part 2 - Evidence of the Spirit

If our mandate is to display an unveiled glory of God to the world around us, not a temporary one, but one which goes from glory to glory then our lives should look different. This happens when we unveil our own hearts before the Lord and by the Spirit, He transforms us into His image. (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

We become what we behold! Which then begs the question, how do we behold Him?

- + Prayer and Worship – we are called to come into God’s presence through prayer and worship to allow the transformational work of the Spirit to take place as we behold Him.

The Evidence of Transformation

Holiness

Holiness has always been an important aspect of worshipping a Holy God. God’s original plans for how His people would worship Him (the tabernacle), insisted on all measures of holiness to be able to enter the presence of God in the Holy of Holies. In fact, the whole nation was to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6).

The way into God’s presence still requires us to be holy, however today Jesus has made the perfect way of holiness. (Hebrews 9:8-9)

God now tabernacles (dwells) in human hearts (1 Corinthians 3:16), and the evidence that we are hosting His presence in our lives is a desire for holy living. We are still His royal priesthood a holy people. (1 Peter 2:9)

Holy Spirit will bring a desire for holy living that will enable us to shine a light in the darkness as we are transformed from glory to glory.

Fearlessness

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

We do not need to be afraid of our Heavenly Father or fear not meeting His standard (Romans 8:15-17). Our Father accepts us as we are, and we don't have to prove anything to Him.

People governed by a spirit of fear have a constant dread of disapproval and a fear of man (Proverbs 29:25). Fear is not from the Spirit of God.

The greatest freedom is having nothing to prove. This freedom—fearlessness—can only be produced by the Holy Spirit.

The more we love God, the more we fear Him (awe and wonder); the greater our measure of the Holy Spirit who instils calm and joy will be matched by a greater desire to glorify God. (Revelation 14:6-7)

Power

Power is what Jesus promised to the disciples at Pentecost (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). Peter's power at Pentecost consisted in two things:

1. *The exact words to say.* (Matthew 10:19-20)
2. *The Holy Spirit working effectually in His hearers.* (Acts 2:37-41)

Whenever God uses us powerfully or chooses to display His authority in us, it is not for us. It is for those around us who need what we have to say or see what God wants to do.

The power of the Holy Spirit cannot be successfully duplicated. If a person is supernaturally changed and given a love for God's glory, God did it.

Love

Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

The first fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22-23). Love binds together all manner of beautiful qualities of Christlikeness (Colossians 3:12-14).

Agape Love as described in 1 Corinthians 13 is a Holy Spirit inspired love, the flesh can't demonstrate agape love in and of its own.

The onus is on us to prove it to those around us who are longing to see Christians behave in Agape love.

Self-control

Self-control is an act of the will. Because we have the Holy Spirit, we can demonstrate self-control, but we must exercise it.

Self-control is both abstaining from things that aren't good and choosing to do what is right.

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).

Discussion Questions

1. How is holiness linked with a powerful move of the Spirit of God in revival?
2. What areas of your life need to again be made pure by confession and repentance?
3. How can we keep short accounts with God that leads to holy living?
4. What would it look like if we were fearless for the sake of the Gospel?
5. How do we engage the power of God in every endeavour in every aspect of declaring and demonstrating His love?
6. Being loving seems obvious as part of becoming more Christlike. However, what would it look like to love like Christ?
7. Where do you find it difficult to love others?
8. In what areas (both positive and negative) do you need to exercise self-control?