

# THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT

*Jorge Himittian*

## INTRODUCTION

In the book of Acts we see that the apostles always used to guide those who made the decision to follow Jesus to a triple experience in their initiation into the Christian life:

1. The conversion, accepting Christ as Lord.
2. The baptism in water.
3. The baptism in the Spirit, or being filled with the Holy Spirit.

So did the apostle Paul to reach Ephesus (Acts 19.1-7). Upon discovering that the 12 disciples who were there had been exposed to an incomplete gospel, and had only been baptized with the baptism of repentance, he preached Christ to them and led them to three initiation experiences of life in Christ: He preached Christ, duly baptized them in the name of the Lord (Kyrios) Jesus, and then laid hands on them so they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Years later, when Paul wrote an epistle to the Ephesians from the prison in Rome, he said:

### **Ephesians 1.3:**

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing  
in the heavenly places in Christ,***

## **GOD BLESSED US IN JESUS CHRIST**

The apostle initiates the epistle with this explosion of praise to the Father because he blessed us with all his blessings: "*Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...*"

God the Father is the subject of this action and of all the actions that follow in this chapter. The Father blessed us, chose us, predestined us, redeemed us...

Let us observe that the verb "blessed" in this verse is in the past tense. Frequently we use expressions of this kind in our prayer: "Lord, bless us". Also when we complement a brother we say: "God bless you". Although beautiful and well-meant, this is an expression of the Old Testament (Numbers 6,22-27). In the New Testament we never find this expression of wish, because God has already blessed us with all blessings in Christ. You don't ask God to bless you; you praise him because he has already blessed you!

**God blessed us... with every spiritual blessing in Christ.** The totality of the blessings of God dwells in his Son Jesus Christ. Paul says in Colossians 2.9-10: "*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ*" When we received Christ and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, all of his blessings became ours. Christ, the fullness of the plenitude of the Father, lives in us. We are one with him.

It is the same as when a poor young lady gets married to very rich man; through the single action of being one with him, everything that belongs to her husband automatically belongs

to her now. For that reason, the Word says that he has blessed us... in Christ. That is, by virtue of our union with Christ.

***Spiritual blessing*** - These blessings are spiritual. Although God also blesses us materially and physically, nevertheless we haven't received the fullness of the material and physical blessings that will be ours when Christ returns; but all spiritual blessings are ours in Christ.

***In the heavenly realms*** - The expression 'heavenly realms (or places)' is, in the Greek, one word: 'epouranios'. It is formed by two words: Epi (= above) + uranios (= heaven), and it refers to the invisible and spiritual world, the heavenly dimension.

In the universe there are two realities or dimensions:

1. The material or physical world, that can be perceived through the five senses.
2. The spiritual or heavenly world, that can only be perceived by the spirit and through faith.

Trees, water, animals, stars, stones, belong to the material or physical dimension. However, God, the angels, Satan, the demons, belong to the spiritual or heavenly dimension. The human being belongs to both dimensions, since he has a body and a spirit. The apostle uses this word five times in this epistle: 1.3; 1.20; 2.6; 3.10; 6.12. Let us observe that the principalities, powers and demons also belong to this dimension.

It is in the 'epouranios' that God has blessed us with all blessing. Christ, through the Holy Spirit, lives now in our spirit. All his blessings are in our spirit. For that reason, we must walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh to live in the virtue of all of his blessings. All the blessings of the Father are in the Son, and the Son is in us. We do not need to ask for more blessings, but for more revelation to understand all that God has given us.

## **PRAYER ASKING FOR REVELATION**

### **1.15-18:**

***For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,***

In these verses Paul communicates to the Ephesians the two things he includes in his prayers in their behalf: thanksgiving and intercession.

When we pray, basically we do two things: we give him and we ask him.

What do we give to God in our prayers? Thanksgivings, praise, love, worship.

Here Paul gives thanks to God for the faith and love of the Ephesians. But, which is his specific request in their behalf?

*... may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know...*

His specific request is for 'revelation'. It's not enough to have a Bible; we need revelation about what is written in the Bible. The root of the verb 'to reveal' is 'veil'. Revelation is the action of taking out the veil; then what was hidden behind the veil is now seen clearly.

The revelation of the word of God has two aspects: the objective and the subjective aspects. The objective aspect is in the Holy Scriptures. The subjective side has to do with our understanding of that revelation. The mystery of Christ and his church was already revealed once for all to the apostles and prophets of the first century. That revelation is registered in the New Testament and constitutes the immutable foundation of the objective truth of God

for all centuries. It is our responsibility to read it, to hear it, to believe it, to obey it, to study it, to meditate in it and to proclaim that revelation in an anointed and faithful way. But, although it is fundamental, indispensable, to have the objective revelation, nevertheless it is not enough. The apostle does not limit it to the sending of that revelation in writing to them. He knows that the addressees of his letter, to reach the total and exact understanding of the revelation, need the inner illumination of the Holy Spirit. For that reason he asks specifically that God give them spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (in Greek the term is 'epignosis' - that means total knowledge), illuminating the eyes of their understanding, so that they know...

This subjective revelation happens in us when we receive the Word of God like children, when we receive it with faith and humbleness, without mixing it with our human reasoning. It happens when we believe God. That revelation does not take place by an intellectual effort but by the operation of the Holy Spirit inside us.

## **WE NEED REVELATION ABOUT THREE THINGS**

### **1.17-18:**

***I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.***

According to these verses, there are three things on which we need to receive revelation:

1. The hope to which he has called us.
2. The riches of the glory of his inheritance in us, the saints.
3. The super-eminent greatness of its power towards us, those who believe.

### **1. We need revelation about THE HOPE TO WHICH HE HAS CALLED US**

The hope is the virtue through which 'we wait for' the things we have not yet seen. The hope is the faith oriented towards the future. It is based on our absolute confidence in God, because we think that he is faithful and powerful to fulfill everything that he has promised (Roman 4.21; Ephesians 3,20).

Since the text says: "*the hope to which he has called you*", we must be asked: What did the Lord call us to?

- He called us to being holy (1.4)
- He called us to show in the coming ages the incomparable riches of his grace (2.7)
- He called us to being one people, one family, one church (2.14-19)
- He called us to being full of all the fullness of God (3.18-19)
- He called us to walk as worthy of our vocation (4.1-2)
- He called us to work according to the ministerial gifts that Christ puts in the church (4.11-12)
- He called us to be a church built by the ministry of all the saints (4.12)
- He called us to reach together with all the saints the unity of the faith (4.13)
- He called us to reach the whole measure of the fullness of Christ, (4.13)
- He called us to carry out a holy behavior in all the orders of our life (4.22-5.20)
- He called us to live according to the will of God in our home and job(5.21-6.9)
- He called us to be a holy and glorious church (5.26-27)
- He called us to be the wife of the Lamb, to present ourselves like a pure virgin for Christ (5.29-32; 2 Corinth. 11.2)
- He called us to fight a spiritual war against the principalities and powers of the darkness, and having finished it all, hold on firmly (6.11-13)

Lets make of the call of God our vocation (calling and vocation are synonymous). Our vocation is to be holy, to be like Jesus. To be one with all our brethren, to be one church,

and to fulfill our mission totally based on the Word. Persuaded that he who is in us will carry the work on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1,6).

This hope is within us: Jesus Christ. In Colossians 1,27, Paul says: "*Christ in you, the hope of glory*". Our hope is the development of the glory of Christ, who already is present in us by means of the Holy Spirit. A pregnant woman has the hope to deliver her child. Although her child still needs to grow and develop, that hope is already real within her. In the same way, our hope of glory is Christ in us.

The life of God is within you! And it will grow! Christ will be totally formed in you and your brethren! Your life will be transformed. Your behavior and your character will improve. Believe it. Hold on to his promises. After a certain period of time, you will look much more like Jesus: you will be more holy, more humble, more kind, more faithful. You will be a better husband or wife, a better father or mother, a better son or daughter, a better brother. You will bring more and better fruits for God. The church will grow in quality, in unity and in quantity.

We will finally be what God decided in himself we would be before the foundation of the world. Alleluia!

The hope of the world is the church, and the hope of the church is Christ. There is no other solution for the world. We'll see precious times arrive for the church in all nations.

God has promised to outpour the Spirit on all flesh when the last days come (Act 2:17).

The gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the nations before the end (Mateo 24.14).

The Earth will be full of the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2.14).

The culmination and total accomplishment of our hope is the second coming of Christ. One day Christ will return to the earth. Then we will receive glorified bodies and the total possession of our eternal inheritance. We hope, according to his promises, for the coming of a new heaven and a new earth, in which justice will dwell (2 Pedro 3.13). Amen.

## **2. We need revelation to be able to see THE GLORY OF CHRIST IN US**

***I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints (V.18)***

We need revelation to know what God has already given us in Christ.

God has given us all the resources that we need so that the hope to which he has called us becomes a reality in our lives. He has given us supernatural resources so that his plan and intention are fulfilled totally in us, here on earth. But we need revelation to see it and to be able to experience it. For that reason it says: 'that you may know... the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints...'

There are three things in this sentence that we need to understand:

- What is an inheritance
- What is glory
- Where are those resources

### **What is an inheritance?**

An inheritance is formed by all the goods that a heir receives. Christ, being the Son of God, is the heir of everything that God has (Hebrew 1,2). We, having been adopted by God as his children, by means of Jesus and by pure grace, are co-inheritants of Christ of everything the Father has granted him (Roman 8,17).

### **What is glory?**

'Glory' is a very important and usual word in the Bible. ('Kabod' in Hebrew, and 'Doxa', in Greek). The concept of the word 'glory' is related to value, virtue, honors, weight, capacity,

power, greatness, quality. Glory is the visible manifestation of the virtues or invisible qualities of a person. When the invisible attributes of God are revealed to us, we, astonished, exclaim: Glory to God!

The **creation** reveals to us the greatness, the power, the wisdom of God; for that reason, the psalmist says: *'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.'* (Psalms 19,1). The seraphim on heaven declares: *'The whole earth is full of His glory'* (Isaiah 6,3).

But the highest and most complete expression of the glory of God is **Jesus Christ**. *'He is the brightness of His glory, and the exact image of His person'* (Hebrew 1:3). John says: *And we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14).

Paul declares that in him inhabits corporally all the fullness of God (Colossians 2,9). All the virtues of the Father and all his blessings are in the Son.

### **Where are those resources?**

Our verse declares that the richness of the glory of his inheritance **is in the saints**.

Christ, inhabited by the fullness of the Father, is in us by the Holy Spirit. Christ in us is the hope of glory. In John 17:22-23, Jesus says to the Father: *'The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me...'*

The Holy, the Almighty, the always Victorious, the humble Lamb, the one who knows how to pardon, the one that is love, the Prince of Peace, is in us; with all his virtues, with all his power, with all his love, with all his grace, with all his qualities. Halleluiah, Halleluiah, Halleluiah and Halleluiah!

God has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. In fact, we do not need more blessings but more revelation to be able to see what God has given us in Christ. Very frequently in our prayers we say: "God, please, bless me". Although it is a beautiful expression of desire, nevertheless is not in accordance with the revelation of the New Testament. It comes from the Old Testament: May the Lord bless you and he keep you... (Numbers 6,22-27).

If God blessed us with all spiritual blessing, then He has no more blessings to bestow upon us. If we have received the Holy Spirit, we do not need new blessings, we need more revelation to know what God has given us in Christ already, by means of the Spirit.

To have riches in abundance, to possess a large inheritance and ignore that we have it, is, in practical terms, like having nothing. If someone deposited in your banking account a very large amount of money and you had not notice of it, even when you have become a very rich person, you would continue living poorly. To have something ignoring that you have it, actually is like not having it at all. Revelation changes our lives. For that reason, when Paul prayed for the Ephesians he didn't ask for more blessings but for more revelation.

Oh, may God illuminate us so that we know the glory that there is in us! Christ, speaking to his disciples about the Holy Spirit said: *"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."* (John 16,14). The function of the Holy Spirit is to take the things of Christ and let us know about them (John 16,14). Yes, within you there are all the virtues of Christ: love, holiness, humbleness, patience, peace, kindness, self control, righteousness, sincerity, mercy, and others. Believe the revelation of God and live according to that revelation.

Parable: A poor man received as inheritance an immense mansion. He left his poor and small house and went with his family to live in that great and wonderful mansion that he never dreamed having. The house was splendid and very large, but it was totally empty, so they transferred the few and old furniture pieces and utensils that they had to that luxurious mansion. Some time later, reading the testament, he found out that the inheritance included all type of furniture, carpets, paintings, set of dishes, curtains, lamps, devices, tools, equipment for the house, machines, jewels of great value, several cars, and a lot of money. He went to the lawyer's to complain about it, and the man assured him that everything had been given to him the very first day. In order to end the dispute, the lawyer walked with the

man to his house. Once there, he guided him to the large basement of the house, of whose existence the man had no notice. And before the astonishment of the heir, he opened the doors of the cellar and demonstrated to him that, indeed, everything had been given the first day to him. The man could not come out of his astonishment while seeing all the most valuable things that he had there; but because of not knowing about them, he had not been able to enjoy them before.

We are like that poor man, the lawyer is the Holy Spirit, and the testament is the New Testament. We need to read it more carefully, under the revelation of the Holy Spirit, and believe the revelation of God. We need to discover, day after day, the wealth of the glory of His inheritance in us.

### **3. We need revelation to know THE POWER OF GOD IN US**

#### **1.19-21:**

***and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.***

It is impossible to explain in words the extraordinary power that God has given us. In order to perceive it (we say this again), we need revelation.

Let us notice the many words Paul uses when talking about that power, and even so, he feels that is explaining it in an inadequate way, since it is almost impossible to transmit the magnitude of that power by means of the human language.

In the first statement: "*the surpassing greatness of His power*".

In Greek we find they use four words: *hiper-ballo / megatón / dynamis*.

The Amplified Bible said: "*the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power*".

And in the second statement: "*accordance with the working of the strength of His might*".

The Greek uses the following three words: *energeian / kratos / isxus*.

To Paul, these seven words are not enough to describe the extraordinary power that dwells in us who believe. Many times the best way to explain the inexplicable is an example or image.

Paul used this resource in the third statement: *which He brought about in Christ* (that incomparably great power ... that working of his mighty strength) exerted in Christ when the Father raised him from the dead and placed Jesus above everything and over all, and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion...

The great and wonderful thing is that the same power has been given to us now! We have in us the power of the resurrection; the power of an indestructible life; the power that conquered sin, death, and the principalities and powers. The power that crucified our old man at the cross; the resurrected mighty power of Christ now is in us! Halleluiah! Halleluiah!

**Rowing boat.** Nevertheless, for many believers Christian life is like trying to advance against the flow of the water in a rowing boat. For that type of Christians, the Christian life is very hard and difficult. Partially, they are right. It is very difficult to forgive those who offend us, to love those who treat us bad, to overcome temptations, to be always joyful, if we intend to do all that in our own strength.

**Sailboat.** For others, Christian life is like sailing in a sailboat, always depending on external factors to advance. Sometimes the winds are favorable and some other times not. Only when they attend a blessed meeting, or go to a spiritual retreat in which the presence of God is perceived and blows the wind of the Spirit, everything seems to go all right and easy.

**Motorboat.** But according to the light of the Word of God, Christian life is not to be seen as a trip in a rowing boat or a in sailboat; we should compare Christian life to a ride on a boat with a powerful motor outside hut. That type of boat does not depend on the personal effort to advance nor on the outer circumstances, but is impelled by a powerful motor, an inner force that carries it through facing all kind of waves. That is the true figure of Christian life. God provided us all the power we need to walk in victory every day and under any hard circumstance or situation. Halleluiah!

#### The key of the motorboat

That motor does not operate automatically in us. There is a key that ignites it and it maintains the motor functioning. That ignition key is **faith**. For that reason, the text says: **'for us who believe'**. Some have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but have their motor off, and continue making an effort with their oars; they try to do the will of God with their own strength. And so, Christian life becomes really difficult and heavy for them.

### **CONCLUSION**

- Every child of God, besides being baptized in water, needs to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is absolutely necessary that we receive the 'motor'. Because it is a gift of God for each one of his children. That gift can only be received by faith.

- It is important not only to receive that power, but to walk in the Spirit twenty-four hours a day. To live by faith is the key to walk in the Spirit; to live believing and depending on that power that is within us. We must declare like Paul: ***I can do all things through Him who strengthens me***" (Philippians 4:13). I can love, forgive, be humbler, be kinder, be more helpful, overcome temptation, live in victory, preach the Word, pray incessantly, to give thanks always and for everything. I can do all that not in my strength but in Jesus Christ who gives me his power through the Spirit that dwells in me.

- Sometimes the 'motor', due to different circumstances, seems to have its power extinguished within us. When that happens, we must solve the problem as fast as possible, and return to live in the Spirit (Roman 8,11-14). Amen