

The Word and the Holy Spirit

By Betty Harstad

After I became saved, I began to learn that it was the Holy Spirit Who illuminated the Word to me. Used as an adjective, the word **illuminating** means to “help to clarify or explain (a subject or matter): *a most illuminating discussion*” (New Oxford American Dictionary). The Scripture revealed to me that I had no righteousness of my own. Upon believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the righteousness needed for salvation was imputed to me by the Holy Spirit. I continued to read Scripture over and over as I begin to understand that it would reveal more glorious truth pertaining to me as a new Believer in Christ.

The Lord led me to John 14-16 to see what the Holy Spirit indwelling within us would mean after becoming new creations by believing in the Gospel. There is too much in those chapters for me to relay, but we should all take the time to read those chapters, especially whenever we get bogged down in miry clay.

So how do these chapters relate in bearing the fruit that God requires? Are we to write down rules for ourselves to look at each day expecting to fulfill them in our own strength? Do we form accountability groups to spur one another along? Do we pray for a miracle so that we will “automatically” bear fruit? No, I came to believe that the Holy Spirit will sanctify us as we apply Scripture for cleansing and sanctification: *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you”* (John 14:15-18 NASB).

“Now the Lord is the Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ASV). Do you need peace? Courage? Direction? Look to the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit Who always glorifies Jesus Christ. *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful”* (John 14:26-27 NASB).

As we linger in this Word, we learn to know and to expect that it is the Holy Spirit, Who works the changes in our hearts and gives us the power to bear good fruit. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law. And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof”* (Galatians 5:22-24).

We see in the New Testament that after Christ’s death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit did bring to remembrance all that Jesus Christ spoke while on earth. The Apostles began to preach the Gospel to Jews and later to Gentiles. Several also wrote the Word down so we all could read, ponder, believe, and bear fruit through the Holy Spirit. We are inspired to bring the Gospel to others as the Holy Spirit directs us in Scripture. We are encouraged to ask God for sinful hearts to be opened and to be made ready and eager to hear and believe the Word. We see in His Word that we may safely trust and follow Jesus Christ wherever He leads us.

“I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify

Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you” (John 16:12-15).