

The Seven Spirits Of God

'There will come forth a Shoot from the stem of Jesse (King David's father) and a Branch (Nazarene) out of his roots shall bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him; the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and might; the Spirit of knowledge and the reverential fear of the Lord and His delight will be in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears' (Isaiah 11:1 to 3).

'May grace and peace be given to you from God Who is and Who was and Who is to come and from the seven Spirits before the throne' (Revelation 1:4).

'These are the words of Him Who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars' (Revelation 3:1).

'And from the throne came flashes of lightning, peals of thunder, and in front of the throne were seven lamps of fire which are the seven Spirits of God' (Revelation 4:5).

'And there between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing as though It had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God Who have been sent into all the earth' (Revelation 5:6).

Hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth as our Messiah, Isaiah prophesied that He would delight in the fear of the Lord. These verses give us a picture of the Messiah, His earthly life and His ministry. These verses also show the seven different ways the Holy Spirit operates. There are seven different aspects the Holy Spirit takes and they are pictured in the Book of Revelation. Seven is the number of the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that there are seven Holy Spirits – the seven Spirits are the seven-fold aspects of the Holy Spirit; which are: (1) wisdom (2) understanding (3) knowledge (4) counsel (5) might or power (6) the fear of the Lord and (7) judgement in the form of discernment, not judgement for sin.

When we understand the tri-une God, the three-in-One all powerful God, but three distinctive Personalities, each with His own role; Elohim the Father is God, Yeshua the Son is God, and Ruach haKodesh the Holy Spirit is God; then we begin to understand the mystery Paul was referring to. 'I desire ... that their hearts may be comforted as they knit together in love, that they may come to know the blessings and understanding so that they may know the mystery of God, both of the Father and of the Son, the Messiah' (Colossians 2:2).

The Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Spirit, is the One Who speaks in the first person as God. The Spirit of Wisdom is God, and He gives us understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, discernment and the fear of the Lord. The culminating manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus (Yeshua) is the reverential fear of the Lord. That was imparted to Him by the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' life, we have the combined character of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus, Who was God and divine by nature, delighted in the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:3), then how much more do we need it? This fear is not terror, but an attitude of deep respect, awe, or a sense of reverence; a total opposite of a rebellious attitude. As redeemed people, we too need to delight in the fear of the Lord, just as Jesus did, and if we follow His example, that should make us very aware of the depth of our need for the fear of the Lord, imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. It was the humble attitude Jesus had, that caused the Father to always hear His prayers (John 11:42). If we have the same humble and grateful attitude Jesus had, we too can expect our prayers to be heard.

The wisdom, understanding and knowledge from the Holy Spirit, in the above context, means insight or discernment into the real nature and essence of persons and situations. That is much more than cleverness. A clever person can be easily fooled, but a person with God's wisdom and discernment can see into the very nature of a person or situation we sometimes have to deal with. Isaiah said Jesus would not judge by sight or hearing, so He was able to discern what the person's character was, without really knowing them well. This divine discernment was revealed when Jesus said Nathanael was a man without guile or deceit, and chose him to be a disciple after seeing him very briefly before they were introduced by Philip (John 1:45 to 49). In Proverbs chapters 1 to 9, the Lord is instructing us to listen carefully to His Wisdom, almost as though Wisdom is a person. In one sense He is – He is the Spirit of Wisdom, another name for the Holy Spirit.

The Lord strongly rebukes people who refuse to listen to Him 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom; but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction' (Proverbs 1:7). We need to take that verse to heart. God is saying only fools despise wisdom and instruction. Who would ever want God to call them a fool? When people are too proud and self-sufficient to accept and listen to instruction, are unwilling to accept correction, are too arrogant and rebellious to listen, they are all foolish in God's eyes. That foolishness automatically excludes true wisdom and is the exact opposite of the fear of the Lord.

From the fear of the Lord comes a wisdom that enables us to relate to God's holiness and as we relate to His holiness, we move and live in that cleansing, sanctifying fear of the Lord that causes us to depart from evil and to keep the Lord's commandments. We need to distinguish wisdom from education and many people cannot see the difference. It is possible to be highly educated, or highly intelligent, yet still be a fool in God's eyes. There are many very intelligent fools around. One example of a highly educated people being complete fools are the scientists who promote evolution and exclude the Lord's hand in creation. They often do not believe in God at all and we read, 'The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable iniquity. There is none who does good' (Psalm 14:1 & 53:1). Another way to understand God's wisdom is in general common sense; that is to realise that every foolish action has its own consequences or repercussions. Many of the problems in the world today are caused by educated fools who refuse to acknowledge God.

God desires truth from within us; from our hearts and when we have truth in our hearts, and are upright and sincere with God, He will impart His wisdom. God's wisdom is not in the intellect or in the mind; God's wisdom is in the Spirit; the innermost depths of man and that is where God wants us to cultivate the reverential fear of the Lord, so we can receive His wisdom. 'Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; You teach me wisdom in my inmost heart' (Psalm 51:6).

If we can see that we are repeatedly doing or saying foolish things, all we need to do is ask God to give us His wisdom. If we are in a difficult situation and do not know what to do or what to say, we can ask God. 'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to everyone liberally without reproach and it will be given to him' (James 1:5).

There is no other way God can impart His wisdom except we submit to him and fear Him. We must realise God is far, far greater, cleverer, more intelligent and wiser than any of us. Wisdom will not come through our intellect – it will come through His Spirit in us and then our intellect will be illuminated. It will not be a substitute for education, nor will it do for us what education can do. God's wisdom is completely unique and it enables us to see God's purposes. It causes us to see things the way God sees them; it gives us divine counsel which runs closely with God's wisdom. When we have His wisdom we receive His counsel. We know how to act in different situations. We learn how to relate to different people and then we will know how to help people. Wisdom shows us the way to go and shows us how to avoid life's pitfalls and dangers.

The Spirit of God gives to us the skills we need to do His will on earth. 'I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, understanding, knowledge and in all manner of craftsmanship' (Exodus 31:3).

So how do the seven-fold aspects of the Holy Spirit work? (1) He gives us wisdom for all situations (James 1:5). 'The wisdom of God is pure, then peaceful, courteous, reasonable, full of compassion and good fruits, impartial and sincere' (James 3:17).

(2) He gives us understanding of the mystery of God (Colossians 2:2); and He gives us understanding or intelligence to enable us to do His will (Exodus 35:31).

(3) He gives us knowledge that is beyond our human capabilities (Psalm 139:6). These first three aspects of the Holy Spirit; wisdom, understanding and knowledge, come straight out of the mouth of God, so we had better listen! (Proverbs 2:6).

(4) The Holy Spirit gives us counsel that will last forever (Psalm 33:11); He is our Teacher (John 14:26); He is our counsellor (Isaiah 9:6); that is He listens to our problems and gives us solutions and comfort (John 15:26).

(5) He gives us might and power (Isaiah 40:29) so we can walk (live and conduct ourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in all things and increasing in knowledge, so that we may be invigorated with all power according to the might of His glory (Colossians 1:10 & 11).

(6) We have now gone the full circle. The Holy Spirit imparts to us the respect and reverential fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7).

(7) The Holy Spirit gives us discernment to be able to 'read' a situation or a person, just as Jesus did with Nathanael in John 1:45 to 49.

Amen and God bless you.

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