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## THE QUICKENING OF THE SPIRIT

*By Joel Grantham*

One of the most powerful truths in the Word of God is found in **John 6:63** where Jesus says, ***“It is the Spirit that quickens, the flesh profits nothing.”*** The Christian life was never meant to be lived in our own effort and strength! As a matter of fact, it is impossible to enjoy an overcoming, victorious Christian life without the help of the Holy Spirit.

In **Romans 7:18** the Apostle Paul reveals an amazing reality when he declares, ***“For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwells no good thing.”*** You see, God rejects our flesh (1 Corinthians 1:29). When I say “the flesh”, I am referring to our self effort; those things that we can accomplish in our own strength or intellect apart from relying on God’s help. That is what the Scripture means by “the flesh”.

I have discovered an amazing truth that I would like to share with you today. **GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR ABILITY. HE IS LOOKING FOR YOUR SURRENDER!** It is not your talent, intellect or effort that God needs. The only thing that He needs is your surrender.

I think that this is one of the hardest truths to get across to people. There is something in man that wants to do it all by himself! It must be because we want the credit! We must remember the words of Jesus in **John 15:5**, ***“apart from Me you can do nothing.”*** Only when we come to the realization that there can be no lasting victory in our own effort, that we must have the presence, power and person of the Holy Spirit working through us, can we begin to enjoy the abundant life that Jesus promised.

In **John 6:63** Jesus declares, ***“It is the Spirit that quickens...”*** Now let’s take a closer look at what this means. The word “quicken” in the Scriptures means to vitalize, to make alive, or give life. In other words, left to ourselves without the help of the Holy Spirit, all of our strength, effort and intellect can produce nothing but death and defeat. We are dead without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Simply put, **WE CAN DO NOTHING** that counts for eternity without the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

The Scriptures reveal 7 areas that the Holy Spirit quickens us. I would like to take a look at each one.

### **#1 SALVATION**

**John 5:21** ***“For as the Father raises up the dead and quickens them, even so the Son quickens whom He will.”*** The new birth is the result of the quickening power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit working within us that causes us to know God as our Heavenly Father (Romans 8:15). Without the power of the

Holy Spirit working in a person, they cannot be saved! No amount of religion or morality can save you. One must be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **#2 PRAYER**

**Psalm 80:18** declares, *“quicken us and we will call upon Thy name.”*

True prayer is impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit. Each day, before I attempt to go into prayer, I first ask the Holy Spirit to quicken me. Without the Holy Spirit empowering me to pray, I am simply praying out of religious duty to satisfy my guilt. But when the Spirit’s presence comes upon me, only then do I really begin to fellowship with God (2 Corinthians 13:14). Oh, if we could only learn this secret to prayer! Then prayer would no longer be a “chore”, but a joy!

## **#3 UNDERSTAND GOD’S WORD**

**Psalm 119:18** says, *“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Word.”*

We cannot understand the Word of God Word with our intellect; we must have the help of the Holy Spirit. Herein is the reason why we have so much false doctrine in the Body of Christ. **Galatians 5:19-20** tells us that heresy is a work of the FLESH. The flesh cannot properly interpret the Bible without the help of the Holy Spirit, Who is our Teacher.

This is why two people can read the Word of God and one comes away believing it is God’s will to heal all, and another comes away believing that healing is not for everyone. **2 Peter 1:20** tells us that there can only be ONE meaning from any Scripture. So how do we find the correct meaning? **In Ephesians 1:17** Paul calls the Holy Spirit, *“the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.”* Unless the Spirit reveals the meaning of the Scripture to your heart, you cannot know it.

## **#4 FREEDOM FROM SIN**

In **Galatians 5:16** Paul writes, *“walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*

The Holy Spirit, not our will power, is the secret to victory over sin! The Bible tells us that Jesus lived a sinless life even though He was tempted in every way that we are. How did He resist temptation? Hebrews 9:14 reveals the secret to Jesus’ sinless perfection. He overcame *“through the Spirit.”*

## **#5 DELIVERANCE**

**Psalm 119:107** says, *“I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O Lord, according to Thy Word.”*

The only way to be free from demonic oppression and bondage is through the power of the Holy Spirit. Today the church has turned to professional counseling, medication and self- help programs. **Isaiah 10:27** declares that it is *“the ANOINTING (the power of the Holy Spirit) that destroys the yokes of bondage.”*

## **#6 FAITH**

In **2 Corinthians 4:13** He is called the *“Spirit of faith”*.

Faith cannot be produced by mentally agreeing with the Word of God. True faith is a result of the Holy Spirit bringing the revelation of the Word of God to our hearts. **Romans 10:10** tells us that it is *“with the HEART man believes.”* Faith is of the heart, not of the mind. Much of what we call “faith” in the Body

of Christ today is actually the flesh attempting to believe God. It is not true faith.

#### **#7 PHYSICAL BODY**

**Romans 8:11** declares, *“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit...”*

The final area that the Holy Spirit quickens us in is our physical body. I believe that this Scripture has three applications. The first, the Holy Spirit will give each believer a “glorified body” at the rapture of the Church (1 Corinthians 15:52). Secondly, the Holy Spirit’s presence brings refreshing and renewed strength to our physical body as we wait in His presence (Isaiah 40:31). Lastly, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that brings physical healing to our bodies (Acts 10:38).