Knowing the Holy Spirit #1...#6

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Knowing the Holy Spirit #1

2013-01-12, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all,

It was one of those hot, humid summer days north central Indiana is known for, that 3 of us decided to have a retreat one weekend. David, Mike, and I conspired to have an extended family member of Mike's, or was it David's, loan us their lake cabin for a weekend so we could worship, pray, and baptize each other. Each of us were baptized as babies in the respective denominations in which we were raised, but neither of us had been water baptized since believing, so that was the main purpose for the retreat.

My memory however is not dominated by us baptizing each other in the brown water of Lake Shafer/Freeman, though I remember entering the water with some concern that it looked remarkably similar to the water floating in our yard when our septic tank overflowed.

Nor do I remember much about the deep discussions concerning life and where we almost college age young men were going, rather it was the first time I heard the voice of the Lord Jesus. The Father had spoken to me before, and I was getting to know the Holy Spirit's fellowship, but I'd never heard the voice of Jesus.

Frankly, I have 2 other topics I wanted to write about in this space, but I couldn't escape the Father's direction to share what is to me very private and personal; that is how I came to know the Holy Spirit and distinguish the subtle differences between the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit. So this is my journey in a nutshell as we say. I know of no other way to teach it than to share my experiences and the Word but feel a little exposed and uncomfortable. Thanks for reading.

Back to the retreat - Purity of heart

Someone put on (Nancy) Honeytree's 'Evergreen' album, which I have on my iPod/phone and still listen to for the purity and passion of just loving Jesus, which characterized Christian music in the 1970's. The last song on one side was written by the now in heaven, Larry Norman, called "I Am Your Servant".

I had 'assumed the position' in worship as I say, meaning I prefer to worship on my hands and knees, forehead to the floor, hands extended, palms up, my mind listening to my passion and love for the Father and Jesus pouring out my spirit through my mouth, 'in the Spirit' as John calls it in Revelation 1:10 and 4:2 - totally unaware of my physical surroundings.

Who am I?

Understand that at that point in my life I really, really wanted to be in ministry, but had such a poor self-image and lack of confidence that I didn't see any way the Lord would ever want me, let alone think about how He could ever use me. On the outside all looked good - I was a star basketball player in our little country school, was in love with a beautiful girl from the big city school, dad was bound by the divorce agreement to pay for my college. Life was good. I even had a 1965 GTO with Thrush mufflers, a Hurst shifter - so what if it burned oil like a West Texas oil well fire, it was loud, quick, and mine.

But inside, I had poor self-esteem, was full of doubt, was convinced I was not good enough for God - in fact the only thing I was confident in was my walk with the Father, but what good was I to Him? And it was an immature relationship - I loved the Father in part because He was there for me when my earth-dad walked out, yet I was still that son feeling I was never going to be good enough for my Father - having transferred all the negativity between my earth-dad and me to my heavenly Father and me.

He spoke to me

The song 'I Am Your Servant' traces a process in a person's heart which you can read below, and at that time my heart mirrored the words of the song (and it still rings true today);

"I a servant. I am listening for my name. I sit here waiting, I've been looking at the game that I've been playing, I've been staying much the same. When you are lonely, you're the only one to blame. I am a servant, I am listening for the call, I've been unfaithful so I sit here in the hall. How can He use me, when I've never given all? How can He choose me, when He knows I quickly fall?"

"So He feeds my soul, and He makes me grow, and He lets me know He loves me. I am worthless now but I've made a vow, I will humbly bow before thee - Oh please use me! I am lonely. I am a servant, getting ready for my part, there's been a change, a rearrangement in my heart. At last I'm learning there's no returning once I start. To live is a privilege, to love is such an art! But I need your help to start - Oh please purify my heart, I am YOUR servant."



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Immediately after I sang the last 4 words: "I am YOUR servant" I suddenly heard the voice of Jesus break into my worship, catching me totally off guard: "John! I love you!" I was so surprised, having heard the Father speak to me before, but never Jesus, that I stumbled in my reply: "I, I, I love you too Lord." His reply was gentle and not as loud, "Turn to John 14:27." I asked equally gently, "Now, Lord?" and He said "Yes, now."

Mike and David were still worshipping though beginning to stir as the needle lifted off the record and the turntable turned off. I sat up, grabbed my New American Standard Bible I'd brought with me, and flipped open to John 14:27 which says: "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."

With those words I knew the Father and Lord had accepted me into their service. I sat as I am now as I write these words, tears welling in my eyes, humbled, at peace for the first time in my life concerning my future, my self-doubt and low self-esteem erased and replaced with confidence and self-assurance in Christ. I didn't know the future, but I knew it was with my Father and Lord, and I knew that I knew I was loved for me, not on the basis of performance.

Fulfillment

Through high school I'd tried various things to find fulfillment: SCUBA lessons at age 15 because I love the ocean and water and thought I could be a professional diver or Oceanographer or Marine Biologist - but it wasn't touching my spirit so it wasn't fulfilling. I quit right before my open water check dive. I took flying lessons and ground school when I was 15 - but quit before my FAA examine and check flight.

But hearing the voice of Jesus- that was fulfilling! I wanted to live in that voice. I wanted to be around that Voice. I wanted to live my life with reckless abandon in that Voice.

Etching it in my mind

There are moments in life that become forever burned into our memories just by the intensity of the moment, and there are others that if we want to retain the moment, we must stop, register what just happened in our soul, and purposely capture every nuance of the event in our minds. We must make a memory. If we don't, the details become lost forever.

This is why for instance, you can be driving down the road, have an amazing revelation you think is so great you will never forget it, then later you can't remember what it was! The reason is the revelation was from your spirit, and you didn't take the time or effort to allow the revelation to imprint in your mind. Revelation doesn't involve the mind unless you make it so.

What I do is keep something to write on in the car to jot something down to cause me to remember, though when I fail to do that I take time to remember where I was driving, what I was thinking, pray in tongues as I do so, go back mentally to where I was, and then the revelation will once again float up out of my spirit. Then I write it down or in some other way involve my mind. Talk to yourself about it, write it down, involve the mind and that revelation from your spirit will be recorded.

(It's one reason I am often up so late writing and studying, because I'll be in bed praying in the spirit/Spirit, thinking on the Lord and things will start coming to me, so I've learned to just give up, get out of bed and go write it down - otherwise it will be lost the next morning - or until I can find that same frame of mind, or 'wavelength' as you'll read below).

That moment He spoke to me was one I could let stand as it happened, mark it on the calendar as the first time I heard the voice of Jesus, which was life changing, and go on. Or I could embrace that moment and then hold that embrace in my soul, not letting Him go, not relinquishing my grip on that feeling, that sound of His voice, rolling it over and over in my mind the way I let dark chocolate melt in my mouth and swirl it around to catch every subtle flavor - and that's what I chose to do with this memory.

Think it through

In the 'old days', we had car radios that had dials we turned to zero-in on a particular radio station. When you got close to that station there would be an overlap of the station closest to where you were on the dial and the one you were dialing towards, and this overlap was coupled with electronic high pitched and scratchy sounds until the moment you dialed that station exactly right to the frequency - suddenly you heard only that station loud and clear!

In my mind, from earliest memory in Him, that's how I sought the Father - I held in my mind, purposely etched in my memory - the sound and feel of His presence in my spirit, from which His voice flowed, and I wanted to find that frequency as a way of life - I wanted to live on that frequency - but it seemed at first that I was hitting near but rarely



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directly on that frequency. So I'll share examples of the Father's first words to me and what He sounds like...And that's where we'll pick it up next week. Until then, blessings, John Fenn

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Knowing the Holy Spirit #2

2013-01-19, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all.

I'm sharing some of my journey and how I learned to fellowship with the Father, the Holy Spirit, and how to fellowship with the Lord - some more examples from my teen years then 'how to'.

Times the Father spoke to me

The first thing I remember the Father telling me was around age 16 - not a revelation, not a feeling, not my voice back to me as some teach/suppose we hear God, not something I had to form into words and (inaccurately) say 'God spoke to me'. He said this as I thought on heaven and what it will be like:

"You know, you'll find when you receive your heavenly body it won't be subject to the natural laws of the earth." I asked "What do you mean?" and He responded: "If you want to walk you can walk. If you want to run you can run. If you want to float you can float, if you want to fly you can fly. If you want to be somewhere, you can be there at the speed of thought."

This exchange was all in the spirit/Spirit. I didn't use my voice to talk back, nor did I hear Him with my physical ears. He is a Spirit so His voice is in your spirit, and you talk back in your spirit and soul. His voice is gentle, authoritative, friendly. Not deep or 'heavy', just like a benevolent dad talking to an adult child.

I also remember about that time working on our riding lawn mower that was broken - the same mower we had when dad left 5 years earlier, but since age $11\ 1/2\ I$ was responsible for mowing our $2.5\ acres$ (1 hectare). I was looking over the engine asking for His help, and as my eyes fell on part of the engine area the Father spoke to me - "Look at that wire, it has worked itself loose. Connect it and it will run again."

Hell?

In those same high school years I was contemplating heaven and hell I asked the Father: "How could you send anyone to hell?" (I was upset at the apparent contradiction between the loving Father I knew and what seemed to be the angry Judge) But I was still surprised when He replied; "I don't send anyone to hell!" I told Him, "Father, I've read about the white throne judgement, and you sure do send people to hell!" Coming at it from another direction He asked me: "What does a jury do?"

I had to think about that one for a minute before concluding: "A jury judges the evidence, they determine the guilt or innocence of a person based on evidence." He said, "Very good. Now what does the judge do?" That was easy - "The judge applies the sentence." "Very well" He replied. "And what is that jury?"

Within the last couple of days I had read John 12:48 where Jesus said, "He that rejects me, and doesn't receive my words, has one that judges him. The word that I have spoken that will judge him in the last day."

So I said to the Father, the Word determines guilt or innocence, so the words of Jesus are the jury." He replied rather matter of factly: "The jury is the Word that determines guilt or innocence; I just apply the sentence."

Then He continued: "A person's body gives them authority in the earth, but when that body dies their spirit and soul automatically become subject to the kingdom they're a citizen of, so I don't send a person to hell, they determine their citizenship. I just apply the sentence."

The reason I've sought balance in Word and Spirit

I was pouring my heart out to Him that I wanted to be accurate, balanced - like Jesus in all I said and did. Even as a teen I had seen my peers fall off into traditions and doctrinal error or sin 'ditches' on either side of the highway of holiness, but I wanted to drive my life right down the middle of that highway.

So one day I was studying the life of Jesus and asking the Father what made Him so balanced in Word and Spirit, what made Him so successful, though even He couldn't do many miracles in His hometown because of their unbelief. (Mark 6:5-6)



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He replied: "He is the Word, full of the Spirit, motivated by love. So all He spoke was the Word. Generally speaking therefore know this; The amount of the Word born of the Spirit in a message, is directly proportional to the results."

Ever since that day I've nearly never spoken nor written a message unless I first get something from the Spirit in my spirit, then illustrated by the Word to share with others. I don't just talk because the schedule demands I speak. I wait until it gels in my spirit. That's one reason I don't like prayer lines - I find myself pausing before each person until I hear directly from the Father what I should pray or do - and that takes time and is exhausting when 200 people each want that. It's much more efficient to teach people how to receive personally where they sit, for then I've taught them something they can carry with them through life, not just one touch from God.

Work with...what or whom?

I learned early on that many translations of Mark 16:20 say this: "And they went forth, preaching everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with signs following." But the Greek says this: "And they went forth, preaching everywhere, the Lord working with and confirming the Word with signs following."

The Lord wasn't working with <u>them</u>, He was working with the Word. I've observed ministers with sinful personal lives, and/or crazy doctrine, yet the Lord is gracious to do miracles because somewhere in there, they presented at least part of the Word accurately. The ignorant think surely God is endorsing this man because of the miracles. Wrong. He is endorsing His Word and working with that, often in spite of man not because of him. The only Man He endorses is Jesus, as He is the Word - so that is who He works with.

A priest?

I was raised Episcopalian, and I'll always be thankful to Father Cooper who was Rector when I was Confirmed, and in his Confirmation class challenged us with the existence of God, mentally taking us back further and further into creation before asking: "And where did that first molecule come from?"

And I'll always be thankful for Father George Davis, who replaced Father Cooper upon his retirement. Father D as we called him, at my mother's insistence allowed the charismatic movement into our church. Father D gave me a Greek/English Interlinear New Testament which I still have and use frequently to this day.

When Jesus spoke to me at the retreat (shared last week), I thought I had to become an Episcopal priest. What was 100 times worse than that thought, was Barb becoming the wife of an Episcopal priest! I was so stressed that summer I turned 18 I could hardly think about anything else - would I have to choose between wearing a collar or Barb? How could we survive 4 years of college and then seminary? I'd be an old man before I got my first church, maybe not until age 30!

I was wearing a T-shirt, gym shorts, and was walking through the front door of our house as I was asking the Father what I was going to do, when He spoke to me: "John! Turn to I John 2:27" I think He had to call my name because I was so focused inwardly on my own stress He had to do something to get my attention. So I sat down and opened up my Bible: "As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; But as His anointing teaches you all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him."

How do I hear Him?

The first key is the willingness to <u>change what you believe if you see it in the Word and confirmed by the Spirit</u>. The Lord is very much 'according to your faith be it unto you'. If you want to believe the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not for today, then God will meet you where you're at to the fullest extent He can and He will be content with you not receiving it.

And if you believe what the Word says; that Christ is in you, that you are anointed, that He will never leave you nor take your anointing, then it will be so to you. But if you believe it is all gone, then He treats you according to your faith, He will meet you where you are, albeit severely limited in what you allow Him to do.

So that's the first thing - be willing to be wrong, to be teachable, to reserve opinion until you see it in the Word and can invest the time with the Father to have Him confirm it in your spirit. Therefore don't fill your head with this commentator or that teacher except as lesser authorities that may or may not be right.

The blood of Jesus and traditions, or the Word?

A favorite example: The Word teaches the blood of Jesus as being poured out for the remission of sins. It is never seen in scripture as being allocated to man to 'plead the blood' in spiritual warfare. Only the name of Jesus is given to us to use against the enemy, with the command that we cast out demons as seen in the gospels and Acts.



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Yet today some Christians will fight tooth and nail because they believe a Christian can 'plead the blood' against the devil. So which is it, the Word that says Jesus' holy blood was poured out once for our sins, or the tradition of man saying we can allocate that blood to use against the devil?

They may say 'But it worked' and I will ask; Did you at any time mention the name of Jesus? They will say 'yes', and I will reply that is what 'worked', because that is obeying Jesus' commands and the Holy Spirit can work with that. You deceived yourself to think 'pleading the blood' is God's endorsement for getting rid of demons - The Holy Spirit used the part He could, the name of Jesus, the rest was vanity.

Think of it like this: If someone you know has believed all sorts of lies about you, creating a totally inaccurate picture of you in their mind, how eager are you meet them and do things for them? Not very, right? Then how is it people fill their minds with all sorts of man's tradition, yet feel emboldened enough to expect God to do great things through them, or even have Jesus appear to them, when these traditions are totally incorrect about God? If He did half the things such a person wants it would only solidify their beliefs in error.

Do not these people realize they have become a Pharisee right out of the gospels when they elevate tradition or what x preacher says above the Word of God? Settle it that the Word settles all arguments. If the Word says one thing but you've always believed another, then adjust, learn, grow. Next week, what His voice sounds like, how to know it is Him and not you, and more.

Blessings, John Fenn

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Knowing the Holy Spirit #3

2013-01-26, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all,

I shared last week some experiences and said that **making the Word the final authority** in our lives is the first point and key to being able to be sensitive to the Lord's voice.

Point two

The second is to focus on this truth, I mean really, really get it, that <u>Christ is in you</u>. You must switch the focus of your mind daily, many times a day, back and forth between the natural world and what is happening in your spirit. Today I will share my journey and battle.

In Mark 5 Jesus, thronged and pressed and jostled by a mob, was still so aware of His spirit man he felt healing power leave him when the woman with the hemorrhaging condition touched his clothes in faith.

When He asked 'Who touched me?' the disciples thought it a stupid question because of the crowd - everyone was touching Him! But Jesus switched His attention between the natural world of the crowd and His spirit as a way of life, so that He felt the healing power flow into the woman.

You can tell the degree of this truth being part of you and your thinking if you have ever: Shouted to God subconsciously thinking He will hear you better, had the idea God lives in a church building or is more present 'at church', or must be prayed to 'up there' somewhere in space.

We have to live in the truth that He is down inside you, not 'out there', for He is in you as close as your next thought. Communion with Him therefore, is internal, in the motives and deep reasoning's of the heart. Not in a voice between the ears, but down inside, in your spirit. His is a Spirit, so the vast majority of His communication is Spirit to spirit.

How I became sensitive to His voice and presence

At first I was so dull of feeling and hearing that I didn't 'feel' anything. Words and descriptions and experiences I have had since were at the time like some fantasy, and it seemed amazing and nearly impossible that someone could have that walk with the Lord, but I wanted it desperately.

But remember, I was battling a horrible self-image, a horrible self-worth, in constant tension because on the one hand I loved the Father but on the other hand never felt good enough for Him nor that He would want me. That is what made me so hard of hearing and insensitive to the things of the Spirit. I realized I could not hold onto these feelings while also hear Him clearly. My arguments were like a smoke screen between the two of us, and anything He said was like a person in another room talking lowly - I can tell someone is talking but can't make out what they are saying. I wouldn't rest until what was making me dull of hearing was gone.



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The Word versus what I felt

This is where my first and second points come together: The Word as final authority and being aware of Christ in me. I remember laying in bed as a teenager battling my emotions of inadequacy, yet wanting to find that 'wavelength' of His presence in me so that I might hear His voice and thus walk in constant conversation, or at least an awareness of Him 24/7.

After dad left money was tight. When he left I was 11 and had a summer bedspread with a 'Charlie Brown' theme, meaning Charlie Brown, Linus, Snoopy, Lucy and the others were pictured all over it. I had that bedspread all through high school no matter the season.

When I was a junior and next year a senior and the cheerleaders came to decorate the bedrooms of the basketball team before the big game, they saw my Snoopy and Charlie Brown bed. I was SO embarrassed but Mom just didn't have the money to update things and I didn't have the heart to tell her I was ashamed. I had to think Jesus was OK with my bedroom, so be happy with what I had. That thought process was a small step, but I didn't realize it at the time.

Above my bed was a window, back then 'air conditioning' meant opening a window. And I remember laying there one night hoping for a cool waft of air to make its way through the window, through the screen, and fall across my sweating body.

The war

A great battle went on that night in my mind, a battle that laid the foundation for the rest of my life. It was then that I mentally made 2 columns in my mind. On the right side were all my feelings and reasoning for God not wanting me nor be able to use me. Dad rejected me, I was growing so fast I was a gangly and clumsy string-bean I was so thin, but with naturally curly hair and wearing it long, I had a natural afro. That fluff on top made me look like a giant cotton swab. I had no money, nothing in the natural anyone would want, and the reasons for God not liking me, let alone loving me, were piling up in that column.

On the left column I made myself remember what I'd read in the Word. Christ in me the hope of glory. Greater is He in me than he that is in the world. I am a new creature in Christ, the boy that existed at age 15 died and now at 16 I was a newborn with all things new. I kept coming back to Christ in me, Christ in me, my body merely a temple, the Holy Spirit is in me to teach me from the Father. God lives down inside my spirit.

The victory

I was tired of the arguments in my head, the constant fear, stress, uncertainty that was the battle between the 2 columns in my mind. I settled it once and for all that night by making a choice, a firm decision, that God's Word and what He said would end all arguments. I would make my world revolve around the truth of the Word - if He said it that settled it no matter what I felt, or how I had to humble myself, or what circumstances said. Though I didn't feel Him in me, I knew He was there because the Bible says so. Period. Paragraph. Over and out.

So I told myself that Christ was in me whether I felt Him or not, and I was going to start searching for His presence because He was in there somewhere - that settling of it, that the Word was final authority, has guided me my whole life and opened the door to my walk with Him to this day.

Flashlight

At first I was like a person with a flashlight (torch in the King's English) in a huge dark warehouse that was my inner man, searching here and there for what I didn't exactly know. My thoughts of inadequacy in the right column would flood my mind and I would respond to myself, 'That's a lie, I reject that because the Word says Christ is in me (and I'm going to find Him if its the last thing I do), and kept right on searching down inside me.

I didn't really know what I was looking for that night, but I remembered after I committed my life to Him that I felt different inside, a sense of peace way down inside that I could barely sense, so I looked for that. At first the peace was like that man with a flashlight finding something the size of a mouse in the corner of a huge facility. But as soon as I realized that was Him, I was able to forget the darkness that was my old thoughts of inadequacy, and devote myself fully to that peace, though it seemed so small that night.

But the more I stayed on that thought- my thoughts would stray and I'd internally yell at myself - Stop it! Stop it! Who cares if you forgot a page of homework! Concentrate Fenn! Then I'd still my mind again and stay disciplined on that peace. I found worshipping helped, so I worshipped quietly, keeping my mind listening to what I was worshipping - instead of worshipping with my lips by my mind thinking about school tomorrow or what clothes I was going to wear, etc.



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At that point the peace became a light and vanquished the darkness - I became 100% aware of Him inside me and from that point on I could filter through all the other thoughts and feelings and go right for that 'wavelength' that is His presence and peace.

By switching my attention to that peace I could 'check in' in a sort of 'Are you still there Lord?' inquiry, many times a day. That was the wavelength I had been searching for - His peace in my spirit. From that peace would flow all He would say to me, and lead to seeing things in His realm.

Flash forward to today

When I wake up, and I mean first awareness I'm awake, I start praying in tongues under my breath - Barb can't hear me though she is right next to me - it is so light.

Like anyone first thing in the morning, we might take stock of our bladder and squint one eye open to see if the sun is shining (lol), but usually before or during that time I switch my attention to my spirit, down inside me, to feel His presence - that is always SO good to feel, that peace, that warmth, that presence at first awareness of consciousness. At that point I ask 'Father, is there anyone/anything you want me to pray for?'

When I do that, immediately someone will come to mind, gently floating in like a suggestion, like a distant memory called upon from a hazy past - but their name, or memory of them floats gently to my mind up from my spirit, so I pray for them in tongues and in my mind at the same time. Often I am clueless what their needs are, so that Presence inside morphs into whatever their need is - a sense of battle raging, a heaviness about a decision, confusion, fear, healing - and I will pray through until that lifts and the peace returns. That's how I know the day has been won for them.

Your own battle

Sometimes I'll get an email, Skype, or instant message from a person who battles if they are really saved or not. Sometimes a person will email with a belief in a tradition of man or some preacher instead of the very plain chapter and verse in scripture. Sometimes the battle is emotional, feelings of fear, inadequacy, rejection, loneliness.

But the answer is the same, Christ is in you, and God's Word must settle all issues in our hearts. You must make your thoughts, emotions, and world view revolved around these truths. The written Word first flows from the Living Word. Without having that revelation from the Living Word inside, Christ, people try to believe the written Word with no real revelation. Next week I'll share how to get that 'rhema word', that word directly to you, from the Father.

Until then, blessings, John Fenn www.cwowi.org

Knowing the Holy Spirit #4

2013-02-02, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all.

When I was almost 14 and for reasons known only to my mother, she allowed me to buy a squirrel monkey at a mall pet store. A squirrel monkey is a Central and South American monkey about 1 foot tall (.3 m), and back then people could buy monkeys in pet stores in the US.

I think my mom's reasoning was that she saw her hurting oldest child still reeling from dad leaving the family 1 1/2 years earlier, and she instinctively knew a pet of my own would be healing as I loved and cared for it. For some reason I don't recall, I named her Tilly.

Tilly was very shy at first, and in the pet store clung to the other squirrel monkey in the cage with her. Perhaps it was her neediness that resonated with my own hurt that drew me to her, but as a young teen I didn't understand those forces in me. She came home unsure of me, unsure of my intentions, totally insecure, wouldn't respond to my voice, and she didn't even eat for the first couple of days.

The way she acted reminds me of some Christians when talk of fellowshipping with the Father arises. Religion makes a cage of uncertainty and fear around people, forcing them into a corner, nervously peering out at the Father from behind their protective bars of fear, uncertain of His true intention towards them.



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Fellowship with the Father and Son

When the apostle John opened his first letter he said this: "...we are also telling you so that you too may realize and enjoy fellowship as partners and partakers with us. And this <u>fellowship we have, which is a distinguishing mark of all Christians, is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.</u>" (Amplified Version)

Clearly he could distinguish between the Father and Son in his spirit, and that is what I'm sharing today, and how to receive a personal Word from Father or Son.

What does fellowship with the Father feel like?

The Father is the source with a capital S, of everything. In the New Testament when it uses the word 'God', it usually means the Father. As in 'God so loved the world that He gave His only born Son' from John 3:16. It is the Father that Jesus will one day turn His kingdom over to as seen in I Corinthians 15:28: "When all things are made subject to Him, then the Son will also be subject to Him, who put all things under Him, that God the Father may be all in all."

In Matthew 24: 36 Jesus said He doesn't know when He will return, nor do the angels know, only the Father knows. When the apostles asked Jesus for more answers about the future in Acts 1:7, Jesus told them, "It is not for you to know the times and seasons which the Father has kept within His own authority." The Father is the Source of all things and greater than all, keeping some secrets even from His Son.

For this reason the Father deals with core issues in our heart. He deals with 'source issues' if you will. Who we are, why we are, where we are going, what is the plan for our life. That is what the Father deals with. He shares these things in the deepest part of our spirit, and He feels rather solemn, sober, serious yet with peace always. There is a weight, a mass, a deepness to His presence inside our spirit.

In meetings I have the Father is often present in this heavy presence that causes everyone to stop speaking. When in His presence it feels like you will violate something sacred to speak or even move, and that is correct- you will be violating His presence if you do talk or walk around, thereby grieving the Spirit.

Last spring in our Dutch conference I saw the glory of the Father roll into the room like a wave, about 4' deep (1.2 m), and suddenly I could not move - it was like my feet were stuck in concrete and several others experienced the same thing. The first times it happened to me years ago I was uncomfortable, but the Father told me: "Don't be afraid of the silence."

After that I relaxed, let people do what they do for the sake of the majority who are sensitive enough to sit in silent fellowship as the Father does deep surgery in their spirit, or deals with deep issues within. Often, because He is a Spirit and deals with the depths of the human spirit, a person's mind is clueless what went on in these times, but they know SOMETHING happened down inside. They feel an intense warmth, an intense presence in their being - that is the Father in their spirit - and you just want to linger there forever.

What does fellowship with Jesus feel like?

Isaiah 42:1-4 describes the person and ministry of Christ, and verses 3-4 says this: "A bruised reed He will not break, and the smoking wick He will not extinguish. He will bring justice and truth, and He will not fail nor be discouraged until He has set justice in the earth. (And the isles of the Gentiles wait for His law!)"

Of Jesus it prophesies that He will not break a bruised reed - if you have ever bent a flower stem or bruised a tender twig, you know it won't heal - Yet He will not break it the rest of the way, He brings justice and healing to that bruised reed! This speaks of physical healing.

When a person's life is like a nearly extinguished candle, He will not blow it out, He will re-light the flame! He will not be discouraged (by our failures). This is a picture of our emotions and emotional healing and health.

Fellowshipping with Jesus is therefore 'lighter' in nature than with the Father. He feels not as heavy, but rather very connected to our emotions, our feelings, in short, our soul. The Father's presence has nothing to do with our emotions and mind, for unless people are accustomed to His presence through experience, their mind can't grasp what is happening way down inside them.

In the many times when my eyes have been opened to the Lord's realm and He has come to minister to people in meetings, there isn't the heavy 'can't move or speak' atmosphere, but more worshipful, soul-affecting presence, and joy. It is an easy presence, relaxed, with a freedom to worship, stand, kneel, express oneself, presence. Jesus is very relaxed around us, and we around Him. He deals with the emotions and physical needs in our lives.



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Think back in your life

If you can remember a time in your life when you were seeking direction, and you knew you were at an intersection in your life with dire consequences if you made a wrong choice - and suddenly you knew down inside what to do - that is the Father's revelation and presence. He deals with 'source' issues.

If you have ever been in a relationship (personal, work, church, neighbor) and you realized if you stayed you would be destroyed or hurt, and you had that realization way down inside - that was the Father dealing with 'source' issues down in your spirit: What are you doing, why are you doing, where are you going?

An example

Jesus deals with emotions - I remember ministering to a group of 200 or so Bible school students when suddenly in the middle of the worship, Jesus came walking up the steps of the platform to my left, stood in front of me and said: "I'd like to minister to my people". I knelt before Him, and responded: "Lord, they are your people, please do as you wish." With that He walked back down the steps and started walking around the room. He would stand beside some and talk to them, or He put a hand or both hands on some and ministered to them.

There were people bursting into tears all over the place, men and women, touched by His presence. Later, as I taught them about what happened and the ways of the Father and Lord, about 10 people reported either seeing Him or feeling Him walking or standing by them during this time.

He stood by one woman and I did something I usually don't do; eavesdrop. If it had been too personal I would have turned away, but it wasn't. He turned to me (Dummy I said to myself, for I realized He knew my struggle of wanting to listen yet NOT wanting to eavesdrop, and at THAT exact time He turned to look at me).

Confirmation

He told me when she was young He told and showed her she would work in an orphanage and minister in other nations, but she was experiencing severe doubts if she had heard right as it had been years since she had heard any confirmation. He said He was assuring her she heard right and that it would come to pass exactly as she had been told and shown.

Things like this went on all over the room, and the worship leader, with whom I had a great working relationship and was very sensitive to the Spirit, continued playing the keyboard lightly which helped keep the students focused on worship.

When He was done, the Lord walked up the steps, stood in front of me (I stood up right after He first left to go minister to them and remained standing before Him) and said: "Thank you for allowing me to minister to my people. He started to turn away, but then turned back and continued, "Many of my ministers won't let me." After that He took His usual 2 1/2 steps, and 1/2 way through that third step He disappeared.

He did this same thing 3 or 4 times, always asking permission, until finally maybe the 4th or 5th time I told Him He didn't need to ask permission anymore, just to know as long as I was in charge of a meeting He could do whatever He wanted and I'd adjust. After that He would just appear suddenly on the floor of the auditorium looking at me, and as soon as I saw Him I'd tell the worship leader and students just to worship quietly and wait before the Lord.

All over the room people were crying, their fears vanquished, their confidence restored, refreshed in soul and body - that is the presence of Jesus, and you can fellowship with Him that way in your spirit.

At home or in house church or in traditional church

I've run out of room for this week. I encourage you to spend time in worship, and turn your attention down inside your spirit to discern if you sense the deep 'source issue' solemn presence of the Father, or if you sense the healing balm of the One who ministers to the nearly extinguished wick and bruised reed - and this is the start of how to receive a personal word from Father or Son where you sit, where you kneel, where you live. The cage bars are dissolved, you can come out with confidence; now experience God!

You can live in this! By switching attention from the natural realm to your spirit through your day, once able to discern things in your spirit, you can tell if it is the Father or Son dealing with you. Continued next week for specific words come from this foundation. Blessings,

John



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Knowing the Holy Spirit #5

2013-02-09, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all,

Last week I shared how the apostle John opened his first letter saying we could have <u>fellowship</u> with the Father and with the Son, and knowing the difference is a key to receiving a personal word and revelation.

The word 'fellowship' is used 4 times in the 1st chapter of I John alone. It is the key word to the chapter and the whole letter. The Greek word 'koininia' is 'fellowship', and comes from the root 'common', as in 'to have something in common'. Having something in common is therefore the basis for fellowship.

That is what fellowship with the Father and Son is: We have something in common so they want to spend time with us, and we with them...amazing!

Don't embarrass us!

I took 3 years of German in high school, and spent 2 weeks there the summer I turned 16. I came within 3 weeks of being born in a town near Stuttgart, and grew up with German food and hearing my parents speak German to each other when they didn't want us kids to know what they were talking about. And if my mom stubbed her toe or smashed a finger, the exclamation that followed was in German.

Time passes, Barb and I marry, we have 3 boys - but I still love German and Germany, especially Bavaria and Swabia. One day we were at a mall, more for walking around than anything, as back then Chris could walk with leg braces and a walker, and he loved to run! Trying to get him to slow down and walk with us was a challenge, but all 3 boys could expend excess energy while Barb and I kept in our minds the quite evening we were going to have while they went to bed early, exhausted from the excursion.

It was on one such outing we talked with a clerk briefly, but I noted an accent and asked, "Bist du Deutsch?' (Are you German?). She answered 'Ja' (Yes) and I immediately began asking in German where she was from and telling her I had been to Germany.

Just then, out of the corner of my eye and just within hearing range, I saw Brian, our youngest, tug on Barb's pant leg and say in a woeful tone, 'Oh no Mom, dad's talking German again! Can we go?' and Jason (being older so a bit more bold) sounding like a frustrated dog owner trying to get the dog to come: 'Dad! This is embarrassing! Dad, come on!'

I still do that sort of thing to this day, though my German is now just a bit more than enough to get me to a restaurant, bathroom, and hotel (but really, what more do I need than that? lol)

Why did I do that? Because I had something in common with the clerk - I had been to her native country and could speak enough of the language to get around. We had something in common.

What do you have in common with the Father and Son?

Jesus is talking to the disciples in John 16, giving them instructions that after He is gone they are not to pray to Him for answers; they are to pray directly to the Father only.

"In that day you will ask me nothing. Truly, truly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, He will give it to you...ask in my name; I am not saying I will pray to the Father for you, for the <u>Father Himself loves you, **because**</u> **you have loved me**..." v23-27)

That is the first thing we have in common with the Father - we both love Jesus. This fact removes all argument for why a person cannot fellowship with the Father and Son. Things like 'I made so many mistakes' and 'I'm such a sinner' fall to the way side as insignificant because the Father loves us because we love His Son. We have that in common, so the basis for fellowship is established.

If we as mere humans put up with the difficult to love, but because they have 1 good redeeming quality we allow them in our lives so we overlook the rest, how much more does our Father desire fellowship with us because if nothing else, we love His Son!

Beyond that...

Have you ever been lied to? Have you ever been betrayed? Have you ever been falsely accused? Have you ever had your words misunderstood and/or used against you? Have you ever had your friend(s) leave you? Have you ever had people you thought were friends drop you because they were offended at you?



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All these things and more Jesus experienced. You have that in common. Start thinking what you have in common with the Father and Son, rather than being focused on your negative qualities. They've invested in you for eternity, revealing in Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come the Father will continue to show His great kindness towards us - so get over yourself, they have.

So day to day fellowship - what does that feel like?

When I wake up and immediately shift my attention down inside me for His presence and start praying in tongues, I understand that presence to be the Father. I don't try to distinguish 'Is this you Father, or you Jesus?' in my spirit. It is the Father. I feel His life, His energy, His warmth in my spirit. I know Him.

As Romans 8:15 says, we have received the spirit of adoption, so we cry out Abba, Father. So it is Him down inside. It should be pointed out here that in first century usage, the word 'abba' was the informal and familiar use, more like our 'daddy' today in English, or 'papa'.

The reason both Abba and Father are used here is because they denote both formal and informal relationship and fellowship. When I was a young boy, it was "My daddy can beat up your daddy!" because at that age and with limited understanding, my daddy was always right and could do anything.

As I got older I understood daddy also to be father. Father carries with it my growing understanding of what it takes to be a man, to be a father. That is how we are with the Father God. He is both daddy and Father.

From vague to specific

When I shift my attention to my spirit I often do so while simultaneously asking, 'What do you think Father?' I'm not really shifting my attention in order to hear words, but rather to sense what the Father is feeling. What 'feel' does He in side of me, give off?

I'm not first listening for words in my spirit, I first look for what I might call, His feelings or opinion on a matter. When I ask 'What do you think Father?' it is in response to everything from should I burn the driftwood on the beach today, to should I record this month's teaching series, or write today? Should I take some Skype calls and Facebook Instant Messages or concentrate on studying the Word this morning?

And in day to day life I ask when someone expresses an opinion, either in person or by email, and I'll ask, 'But what do you think Father?' 'What do you want me to say to them?' 'Shall I be blunt or do you want me to be gentle? What season of life are they in right now?' and so on. When out and about with a list of things to do I'll ask 'What do you think I should do first?' - and I look for a feeling, a witness, something highlighted in my spirit that draws my attention more to it than the others: 'Go to the hardware store first' feels 'right'.

Emotions of the Father

When the Father was teaching me about Himself many years ago He said this: "I express my emotions though the manifestation (gifts) of the Spirit." I told Him, 'I need chapter and verse on that Father.' and He responded: "Study compassion. Every time you see compassion in the gospels you'll find a manifestation of the Spirit."

Immediately I knew He was right. It states Jesus had compassion on a leper, and He healed him. He had compassion on the unfed multitude, and food was multiplied. He had compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd, so He sent out the 12 to heal and help. (Mt 15:32; Mt 9:36-38,10:1; Mk 1:41) Even in His parables compassion resulted in a supernatural forgiveness of debt! (Mt 18:21-35 KJV all)

So I look not for a word, but for the Father's emotion - compassion? Grieved? Happy? Again years ago while a pastor in a traditional church, when He was teaching me this, I began asking the Father before a service, 'What are you in the mood for?' Knowing a traditional service is divided into 3 parts, the worship, the Word, and prayer/ministry, I began asking what area He was in the mood to do for that service.

I would sense - not hear - but sense more 'weight' in my spirit on say, worship - which explained why He gave me absolutely nothing to teach that service - He wasn't in the mood to say something through my teaching, but it felt 'right', it bore witness, to focus on worship.

The worship leader at the time, Paul, the first few times looked at me like a deer caught in the headlights - 'What? I don't have anything but 4 songs'. I'd tell him just to go with the flow and worship...and the night would be filled with 90 minutes of worship, then ministry time, all of us soaking in His presence - all because I wasn't looking for a 'word', but for that presence on the inside of me first and foremost, and from there to what the emotions of my Father was for the event at hand.



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Emotions are part of what we have in common with the Father and our Lord. Compassion to others is first rooted in Him, so learn to look for that commonality in your fellowship, and 'feel' His presence within. Fellowship on what you have in common, and ask Him His opinion on things, and 'feel' His reply.

More next week as I plan to conclude this series then - blessings, John Fenn www.cwowi.org

Knowing the Holy Spirit #6

2013-02-16, John Fenn, www.supernaturalhousechurch.org

Hi all

I shared last week that I first look for a feeling, a sense, a mood of the Father in my spirit, rather than voice.

Fellowship and a word to us

The Greek word 'logos' is used when speaking of the general counsel of God. Logos is the whole of Genesis through the Revelation. In popular church culture new converts are taught to read the Word, maybe 2 chapters per day plus daily verses to read or think on, and this is the logos.

While it is good and proper to know the logos, to have a broad knowledge of chapter and verse, the logos does not produce faith. Knowing the logos doesn't make one saved nor lead to salvation, for how many heathens have heard chapter and verse, how many theologians know the Bible, yet are not born again - just knowing John 3:16 doesn't get you to heaven.

What do you live for?

Coming out of the logos is a specific word spoken or shared with a person. This word is 'rhema' in the Greek and means a specific word spoken to a person. The rhema proceeds from the logos, the specific from the vague. You got born again by responding to a rhema. That response to a rhema invitation to salvation is faith.

Matthew 4:4 quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 and uses rhema, not logos: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word (rhema) that comes out of the mouth of God."

Here we see that our spiritual nourishment is not the logos, the general counsel of God Genesis through the Revelation, but a specific Word to us - as specific as our breakfast, lunch, and dinner is for us and not for the multitudes. We live by and for a specific Word given to us from God.

This verse also shows us that we should make a specific Word from God equal importance in our hearts to receiving our daily meals. Again - not making the logos, the 2 chapters per day, the daily memory verse equal to our food, but <u>living for a specific Word to us from God</u> is what we live for and equate as equally important with our daily bread.

How does faith come?

In Romans 10:17 Paul says 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.' The statement that faith comes by the Word, does not use logos, but rhema. In other words, faith doesn't come by just knowing the Word, faith comes by hearing a specific word to you from God - that produces faith.

And remember Jesus and the NT teach the Holy Spirit calls these 'rhema words' of communication various things like 'leading into truth, shown things to come, witness in our spirit, discernment of spiritual things' - they aren't all just sentences you will hear in your spirit - thus my sharing last week that I look first for a feeling, a witness, a mood, for the specific rhema proceeds from the general presence (logos) of God.

Jesus is the logos of God - the general counsel and fullness of God in the flesh. But as logos He is also viewed by some as a mere historical figure, by the Muslims a prophet, to others a curse word. But to those who believe, He is more than logos, He has become a rhema to us, a specific word to us that led us to salvation. The rhema proceeds from the logos.

The error of modern evangelical Christian culture is this; Telling a person that building knowledge of the logos will lead to great faith, to answered prayer, to a mature Christian life. False.



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Frustrated Christians

Again, it is good to have a working knowledge of scripture (logos), don't get me wrong. But it is the rhema, not the logos, that produces faith, and THAT is what we need in life. THAT rhema is what we are to equate in importance with our daily food intake.

Unfortunately Christians are raised thinking 'If I just knew more of the Word' (fill in the blank) I'd be healed, my child would be saved, I'd have my prayers answered, I'd enter my ministry...and they mean logos.

Consider that Noah walked with God, the logos, but it was a rhema that told him to build the ark. His response to the rhema is called great faith in the Hebrews 11 'hall of faith'. Moses walked with God, the logos, but it was his response to the rhema to go back to Egypt that made him the great leader. Abraham walked with God, the logos, but it was his response to the rhema about a promised land, about having a son of promise, that caused him to receive the promise.

Therefore faith is our response to a rhema - not knowing the logos. (For more on this I suggest my How to be Led by the Spirit and my Balancing Grace and Faith series)

As a result of the error that believes just knowing the Word (logos) produces faith, many Christians are frustrated because they don't understand why they study and read and still don't seem to have great faith. The answer is simple; they've made the logos their daily bread instead of the rhema. Thinking they are doing what God said, they are in fact in disobedience and error, taught by well meaning ministers who don't know what they are talking about. (I've never suffered from an opinion deficit disorder, lol)

Why many don't get healed

Because faith doesn't come from the logos, but from the rhema - a Word directly from God to us - that means when a person faces a need for healing or any other miracle, the first thing to do is to get alone with God and spend time in the logos, lingering over verses that pertain to the situation, and spend time there until the rhema comes from the logos to you. That logos time (for me) involves worship and prayer and alone time with Him before I ever open the scripture. Allow time to hover and meditate on His presence, and then the passages that are relevant, and do nothing else until you receive that rhema from Him.

Popular church culture says to grab a chapter and verse from the logos, make a stand on that, and expect a touch from God. <u>That is not faith</u> until and unless we have received a rhema for the situation, and THEN faith is the result because we know that we know that we know because we heard from God on it.

Faith comes not by the logos but by the rhema. So whatever your situation, drop the culture that says to pick out a chapter and verse, and instead spend time in worship, in meditation, in study of the logos to allow God to speak out of that logos, a rhema to you. This is how faith works.

Ask what you will

"If you abide in Me, and my Words abide in you, you will ask what you will and it will be done for you."

This verse in John 15:7 has led many Christians to learn all they can about the logos, thinking they will 'arrive' one day when that verse will be true for them - they will be so in tune with God that whatever they ask will be done because they will have so much Word in them. Wrong.

That is NOT what Jesus said: Jesus used rhema: "If you abide in Me, and the Words I speak directly to you for you abide in you, then you can ask whatever you like according to that word/rhema to you, and it will be done."

That is what He said. It isn't a blank check of all answered prayer all the time, but a specific statement that if you receive a rhema and that rhema abides in you, you may ask according to that rhema and it will be done.

When Noah was given a rhema to build a boat, he then could ask anything he wanted as it pertained to building the boat: I need wood, time, help, sealant, the animals brought to me - anything related to that rhema would be given him.

This is why when you've received a rhema - a leading, a peace, a word, a direction - and you asked for something within the rhema to happen, it happened.

For instance, when Barb and I were moving from our little efficiency apartment in Charlotte, North Carolina to Tulsa in 1979, and the Father told me, "You can rent a house in Tulsa", we immediately began figuring what we needed in that house to welcome our first son who would be born during our sojourn there.



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We made a list: Earth tones, brick fireplace, wood mantel, butcher-block or light counters in the kitchen, window over kitchen sink, 2 baths, 3 bedrooms, attached garage, within 25 minutes of work and my school, and for under \$400/month. Once there and while we were going to see a house for rent, my spirit leapt within me when we turned a corner and my eyes landed on a house - then I saw the 'for lease' sign. And it had all we asked for, and is where we lived that year. Why? Because we waited before the Lord until we got a rhema, then we asked whatever we needed based on that rhema and it was done for us.

You have to know Him and fellowship to get a rhema

Knowing the logos does not require knowing and fellowshipping with God. Getting a rhema DOES require fellowship and knowing God.

When I study the Word I read through the logos looking for something to 'jump out' at me or catch my attention. I sometimes read just for pleasure, but usually I am 'trolling' for a rhema like a fisherman with a lure in the water as the boat moves slowly along. I pray that He would open the eyes of my understanding, and then I troll through the Word, and when something catches my attention I stop and will study that Word, that verse, that subject for weeks or even months on end.

At any given time I have 5 or 6 rhema words/concepts I am thinking on, studying, meditating on - and that's why I have faith. That's why I know so much - honestly, I just wait until I get something He wants to teach me, then I study it out until I get every morsel of spiritual nourishment out of that daily bread from heaven.

A rhema can come from the most unlikely source because when you know His presence inside, you are constantly switching your attention to down inside you. Like when I was watching a rerun of a TV show and telling the Father His life must be boring, because I was bored with just that 1 show I'd seen so many times I knew every line, so I asked 'Where do you find fulfillment? (since you know the end from the beginning) and He responded: "I enjoy the process". That rhema from years ago is STILL giving me spiritual food to this day.

It is fellowship all day long, switching back and forth between the natural and spiritual. It is a way of life, not a formula. Like any friendship, looking for feelings, nuances, moods, words, back and forth with each other.

We must know Him...and that fellowship results in rhema's in our lives...our response to those rhema's is faith, and our peace in Him. There is so much more to the subject, but I feel I must move on, but perhaps something related next week. Blessings,

www.cwowi.org

John Fenn

