Walking with the HOLY SPIRIT



Living in Fellowship with the One Within

Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa D.D.

WOT PUBLISHING

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Introduction

The Christian life is a life of fellowship with God. It is not a life in which the believer is left to remember the teachings of Jesus and then try to carry them out alone. The Father has given us the Holy Spirit, and He lives in us (John 14:16–17; Romans 8:9–11). The One who helps us is not far away. He is present in the believer as the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of life, and the Spirit by whom we know the Father.

Many Christians know that the Holy Spirit exists, yet live without a conscious response to His presence. They may look for Him only in an unusual experience or wait for a special meeting before expecting His help. But Scripture places His indwelling at the centre of ordinary Christian life: our understanding, prayer, conduct, relationships and service (1 Corinthians 2:12; Romans 8:13–16, 26–27; Galatians 5:16–25). To walk with Him is to live in the light of that truth and to yield to His leading.

This book begins with who the Holy Spirit is and what Christ has given. It then considers communion with Him, His work in relation to the Word, the testing of guidance, His help in prayer and daily life, and the fruit of walking in the Spirit. Read the passages for yourself. Give attention to what each passage says before applying it to your circumstances. Our confidence rests in the Word of God, and the Spirit who inspired the Scriptures helps us understand and live in their truth (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 1 Corinthians 2:12–13).

CHAPTER ONE

The Holy Spirit Who Dwells in You

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:17 (KJV)

Read John 14:15–27; Romans 8:9–11; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples as He prepared them for His departure. Their hearts were troubled, but His answer was not to leave them to face the future by their own strength. He promised that the Father would give them another Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who would abide with them (John 14:1, 16–17). His promise was fulfilled in the sending of the Holy Spirit after His glorification (John 7:39; Acts 2:1–4, 32–33).

The word translated "Comforter" in John 14:16 is *paraklēton*, a form of the dictionary word *paraklētos*. Depending on context, it may be rendered Advocate, Helper or Comforter. The word points to one who comes alongside to help or represent; its use does not require us to insert every possible meaning into every occurrence. Jesus calls Him another Comforter: in the setting of His departure, the promise assures the disciples that the Father will provide the Spirit to abide with them. The relationship between Jesus and the Spirit is explained by the passage itself, including the Spirit's teaching and witness concerning Jesus (John 14:26; 15:26). Jesus also calls Him the Spirit of truth and says that He

will teach and remind the disciples of what Jesus said (John 14:17, 26). The emphasis is on a divine Helper whose ministry is faithful to Christ and His words.

Notice that Jesus speaks of the Spirit personally: He teaches, bears witness and guides (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force to be used. He is the Spirit of God, who acts according to the will of God. The language of wind and fire can illuminate aspects of His work, but no symbol should replace the truth of His personal ministry (John 3:8; Acts 2:3–4).

Paul writes that those who belong to Christ have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them (Romans 8:9). In 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 he asks believers whether they know that their body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, whom they have from God. The context concerns honouring God with the body, including the rejection of sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18–20). Paul does not introduce indwelling as an abstract idea. He makes it the ground of a holy and responsible life: you belong to God.

Jesus says, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18). He is preparing the disciples for His departure and for a new manner of knowing His presence. He goes on to speak of His life and theirs, and of their knowing that He is in the Father, they in Him, and He in them (John 14:19–20). The Spirit's coming belongs within this promise of life and relationship. He does not draw attention away from the Son; He makes known what belongs to Christ (John 16:14–15).

In John 14:21–24 love and obedience are joined. Jesus speaks of the one who has His commandments and keeps them, and then of the Father and the Son making their abode with the one who loves Him and keeps His word. Obedience here is not the purchase price of God's love. The passage describes the response of love to the Lord's word and the fellowship in which that love is

expressed. We must not set His commandments against His promise of the Spirit, as though one made the other unnecessary.

Then Jesus identifies the Comforter as the Holy Ghost, sent by the Father in His name. He will teach the disciples and bring Jesus' words to their remembrance (John 14:26). The peace Jesus gives follows in verse 27. He has spoken of His departure, the Father's gift, His continuing life and His word. On that ground He tells them not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid. The believer's confidence is in the Lord who keeps His word, not in an ability to produce calm at will.

Recognise who lives in you! When you approach the Word, you have the Holy Spirit, the Helper given by the Father. You can give Him room by responding to the truth He has given, rather than living as though you were on your own. His presence calls you to fellowship, and His instruction directs you to honour the Lord Jesus in the choices before you (John 14:26; 16:14).

This truth changes the way you approach your day. You do not need to ask the Holy Spirit to arrive as though He were absent from the believer in whom He dwells. Recognise the One who is already present. When you open the Scriptures, pray, face a decision or meet another person, you are not left to yourself. His presence calls for attention and response, not passivity. Paul says that God works in believers and also instructs them to work out their salvation in obedience (Philippians 2:12–13).

The New Testament also speaks of receiving the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit (Acts 19:1–6; Ephesians 5:18). These passages should be read in their own contexts. Our concern here is the believer's daily fellowship with the Spirit who dwells within. The question is not whether a child of God can persuade Him to be near; it is whether that believer will acknowledge His presence and walk accordingly.