

DO I WANT IT?

ACTS 1:4-9

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⁴ And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

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⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

We think that the church is the catalyst for personal victory, but it is the other way around.

What happens in the private life will always affect the corporate life, be it our family or our church.

“The world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God and the Church is famishing for want of His Presence. – A.W. Tozer

“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.” – A.W. Tozer

There are three questions we need to ask ourselves if we say we are looking for a move of the Holy Spirit in our lives, family, church and community

1. Do we really want it?
2. Why do we want it?
3. What will I sacrifice to get it?

We want the Comforter. We may want the power and the blessings, but that is not all the Holy Spirit has or is.

The Holy Spirit rebukes, corrects, convicts, stretches, gives assignments and isn't interested in our will, want or plans or even our comfort.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete *and* proficient, outfitted *and* thoroughly equipped for every good work. (AMP)

Hebrews 12:5-8 - ⁵ And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” ⁷ As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? ⁸ If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. (NLT)

Hebrews 12:11 - ¹ For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems sad *and* painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness [right standing with God and a lifestyle and attitude that seeks conformity to God's will and purpose].
(AMP)

Do we want to be corrected? Is our desire to be blessed by God but not to live in conformity to God's Word?

The Holy Spirit is not always interested in our comfort. Comfort and well-being are not the same thing in the Kingdom of God.

He expects us to change our will, want and plans, not the other way around.

The Holy Spirit will remind us that this is His church and not ours and He will do whatever He deems needed

What is our motive?

Our text shows that Jesus' motive in sending the Holy Spirit was so that we would be effective witnesses

Without relationship is to be without power. Our effectiveness is predicated on our relationship with the Holy Spirit and our conformity to His will and word.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is about work, sacrifice and building up others and building God's kingdom

Romans 12:6-8 - ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. (NLT)

The Holy Spirit is not my ticket to an easy life, but affective ministry and closeness with my Savior.

What will we sacrifice to see the Holy Spirit move?

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, *which* is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you]. (AMP)

Every move of the Spirit throughout history has required a great sacrifice of prayer and that the church's priorities align with God's

God does nothing but in answer to prayer. – John Wesley

To want to see God move will cost us something. To want to be truly used of God will cost us something

Will we sacrifice whatever it takes to hear from the Holy Spirit and to be filled with His power?