

CONCLUSION OF THE 21 DAYS OF CONSECRATION: TIMES OF REFRESHING AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Houses of Light Church • January 20-21, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Acts. 3:19-21

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This weekend is the conclusion of our 21st Consecration and we rejoice with those who have carried out this fast, devotional and Bible reading plan. We know that the promised rewards await you. (Jer. 29:13; Matt. 6:18 and 7:7)
- B. **The promise that the Lord has given us is that if we repent, which implies a change of heart, and turn to God, which implies spending time seeking his face in prayer and fasting; Our sins will be erased, and it is not that we earn forgiveness, it is rather that we can have clarity to see what is out of order; The result will be that times of relief, rest and revival of the face of the Lord will come.**
- C. According to the context of all Scripture, we understand that times of refreshing have two dimensions, future and present. When Jesus returns He will restore all things as Peter said (Acts 3:21b) but there is also a present dimension to receiving this promise.
Jn. 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
- D. A very clear example of being revived after going through repentance is found in the prayer that David prayed for total forgiveness for his grave sins (Ps. 51). When he finally realized how terrible his wickedness had been in committing adultery with Bathsheba and murdering her husband; he prayed for restoration.
Psal. 51:7-8 "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice."
- E. God is always willing to forgive or "erase" the list of our sins, if we repent of them and turn to Him to send us these times of refreshment or rest.
- F. Last week we talked about how one definition of God's goodness is His desire to do good to us rather than repay us according to our sins, and precisely as sons and daughters of God forgiven by the work of Christ and divine grace, **we have the ability to simply receive by faith and in gratitude the relief, relief, and restoration that He has promised to send.**

- G. **Now is the time to receive what God has promised, we must learn to receive from God,** the problem is that when there is religiosity in our lives we think that it will never be possible to reach the level to deserve receiving God's promises but it is time to renew our mind and align it according to what God has said.

Psal. 123:1-2 "I lift my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven. 2 We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy"

Eph. 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."

II. THE COMFORT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. When we repent of our sins, we are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit who is the Comforter par excellence who brings relief to our lives in the present time and constantly (three of our devotions this last week focused on the Holy Spirit). **When Jesus prepared his disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit, he taught them many things about his personality.**

Jn. 14:16-17 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

- B. Holy Spirit is more than a dove, a wind or simply a power, IT IS A PERSON, A FRIEND, A TEACHER. The Holy Spirit not only imparts illumination or inspiration, **He knows the things of God and reveals them to us. He is infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent. He is the third person of the Trinity living and loving in us and through us. He is the one who comforts us in the difficulties we go through; He brings the peace that the world cannot give us (Jn. 14:27).**
- C. Holy Spirit is never rude; He always convinces and instructs with gentle patience because that is his personality. **The way we respond to the voice of the Holy Spirit, when He is building or guiding our life, determines our growth in our relationship with Him; we must cultivate a relationship of friendship and submission to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.**

2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

III. RESULTS OF HAVING COMMUNION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. **VICTORY:** We are not smart enough to solve all the problems we face on our own. As we develop our fellowship with the Holy Spirit He is faithful and will teach us the way to victory (Jn. 14:26).
- B. **REVELATION:** It is good to spend time in prayer each day, but we must also take time to meditate on the Word, and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal it to our hearts. He makes the *logos* (the written word) become the *rhema* (the living word) in our being (Eph. 1:17).
- C. **PROTECTION:** Through a relationship with the Holy Spirit, we receive protection from the schemes and deceptions of the enemy. There are

attacks that go directly to hurt the people of God, but communion with the Holy Spirit protects us from them (Acts. 16:7).

- D. **ANOINTING:** As we unite with the Holy Spirit in obedience and faith, He enables us to operate in the gifts He gives (1 Cor. 12:7-11).
- E. **COURAGE:** Holy Spirit is God's provision to increase our courage; He fills us with boldness and strengthens our faith (Acts. 1:8)
- F. We all need to know about the Holy Spirit and the more we study about Him in the Word, the more satisfying and powerful we can experience a relationship with Him.

IV. 5 PRACTICAL PHRASES TO TALK TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Eph. 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

- A. **Thank you:** Thanking Holy Spirit is one of the simplest and most effective ways to honor His work: *"Thank you Holy Spirit, for Your presence, I appreciate everything You do in and through me"*
- B. **Release revelation:** We can ask the Spirit to bring abundant revelation of God's word into our lives and the lives of others: *"Holy Spirit, impart revelation to my spirit."*

Eph. 1:17 "may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him."

- C. **Use me:** We can ask Holy Spirit to use us more through the manifestation of His gifts to serve and build the church: *"Thank you Holy Spirit for the manifestation of Your gifts to help Your people".*

1 Cor. 12:7 "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

- D. **Strengthen me:** You can ask the Spirit to strengthen your inner being, your mind, emotions, consciousness and reasoning: *"Holy Spirit, thank you for unleashing Your love, peace, patience and self-control in me."*

Eph. 3:16 "he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,"

- E. **Teach me:** We can ask the Spirit to make God's will known to us and to manifest His leadership in all matters of our lives, including finances, calendar, circumstances, emotions, regarding our physical body, relationships, the future, greatness of God, opportunities, fears, and deficiencies: *"Holy Spirit, I love Your will and ways, manifest Your leadership in me in all areas of my life."*

Jn. 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit... he will teach you all things..."

Jn. 16:13 "When the Spirit of truth comes... , he will declare to you the things that are to come."

V. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO PROPHECY AND SPEAK IN TONGUES

1 Cor. 14:1-5a *"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue **BUILDS UP HIMSELF**, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I want you ALL to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy.... ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."*

A. To prophesy is to speak what the Holy Spirit speaks about others which is always in accordance with Scripture; and praying in tongues is a privilege that the Lord has given us to strengthen our inner man and we need to speak in tongues every day.

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is there anything that makes it difficult for you to receive the refreshment that comes from the presence of the Lord? Explain
2. Do you consider that you have cultivated a friendship with the Holy Spirit? Tell your experience.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. School of Discipleship and Affirming Your Steps (AYS) begin courses this Monday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. • First Level: There will be Spanish and English separately. • Second Level: Spanish and English together • Third Level: Bilingual. Register today online or at the table outside.
2. Next weekend (January 27 and 28) we celebrate our 24th anniversary. Come and join us to be grateful for what God has done and learn more about our history and growth process.
3. Our service in English starts next Sunday! We invite you to join us in prayer as we prepare for this new adventure. Last week we went out to share the gospel in our community and it was a blessing. Next Saturday, January 27 at 9:45 a.m. we will have another scope; Join us and register at the reporting center or at the table outside.
4. Women's Retreat: February 9 and 10 • Men's Retreat: February 23 and 24. Register at the bookstore or at housesoflight.org
5. On February 14 at 7:00 p.m. We will have our Romantic Dinner: An event planned for couples to fuel their romance with an unforgettable candlelight dinner, excellent food, live music, photo-booth and a precious time of teaching and ministry for couples. Space is limited, register today at housesoflight.org