

Discovering Your Ministry Within The Kehilah¹: Living A Spirit-Filled Life Part 1

As I have shared in the past (see previous teachings [here](#)), we are created in the image of God for five specific purposes: to worship God with all of our heart; to fellowship with God and other Believers; to grow in our knowledge of God and take on His attributes – especially the fruit of the Spirit; to minister or serve others – both Believers and non-believers in meeting their needs; and, finally to share the Besorah (Good News) with non-believers around us. The purpose of this series is to prepare us to live a Spirit-fill life in order to fulfill our God-given purposes, especially that of ministering or serving to the needs of others.

As you know, Yeshua (Jesus) had many talmidim (disciples). Crowds followed Him everywhere. He fed 5,000 men plus their families in one seating (Mark 6:44) and over 4,000 men plus their families in another (Mark 8:9). Multitudes were coming to Him for physical healings and deliverance from evil spirits.

We read in Luke 10 that He sent out 70 talmidim in pairs as an advance team to towns where He was going to minister. We also know that Yeshua poured out His teachings on twelve hand-picked talmidim. After His resurrection and just before His ascension, He gave the following directions to the remaining eleven talmidim:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20 ^{CJB 2})

"Now I am sending forth upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been equipped with power from above." (Luke 24:49)

"At one of these gatherings, he instructed them not to leave Yerushalayim but to "wait for what the Father promised, which you heard about from me. For Yochanan used to immerse people in water; but in a few days, you will be immersed in the Ruach HaKodesh!" (Acts 1:4-5)

These directions were fulfilled just a few days later during Shavu'ot (Pentecost) as we read in Acts 1:45.

As I did with the series on the fruit of the Spirit, I want to share with you some critical background information on the Ruach HaKodesh before we start to examine the gifts of the Spirit and explore which gift or gifts you might have.

Who Is The Ruach HaKodesh?

We cannot fully comprehend the work of a person without also knowing something about that person. Likewise it is necessary to know something about the person of the Ruach in order to fully appreciate His

¹ Check the Glossary page for any Hebrew words that I use and don't explain in the text. As time goes on, I will rely on the Glossary for those who need the transliteration.

² Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in this blog will be from the Complete Jewish Bible edited by David H. Stern

work. It may seem dull to some to pursue the study of the Spirit's personality and deity; but who He *'is'* is foundational to what He *does*, and a knowledge of both His person and work is basic to our faith.

In his book *How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit*, A.W. Tozer says that the "Holy Spirit is a Being dwelling in another mode of existence. He has not weight, nor measure, nor size, nor any color, no extension in space, but He nevertheless exists as surely as you exist." He is a Person. The "Holy Spirit is not only a Being having another mode of existence, but He is Himself a Person, with all the qualities and powers of personality. He is not matter, but He is substance...the Holy Spirit has will and intelligence and feeling and knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think and hear and speak and desire the same as any person has."

The historic Kehilah said that He is God. The Nicene Creed states, in part: *"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified."*

Now what do Scriptures say about His divinity? Psalm 139 says, **"Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"** (Psalm 139:7) Obviously, this passage attests to the fact that the Ruach is omnipresent – an attribute that only God possesses. In the book of Hebrews there is attributed to the Ruach that which is never attributed to an archangel, or a seraphim, or a cherubim, or an angel, or an apostle, or a martyr, or a prophet, or a patriarch, or anyone that has ever been created by the hand of God. It says, **"How much more the blood of the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish, will purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that we can serve the living God!"** (Hebrews 9:14 – emphasis added) As soon as the word "eternal" is used about a being it immediately establishes the fact that he never had a beginning, is not a creature at all, but God. Remember, that according to 2 Timothy 3:16, **"all Scripture is God-breathed."** That is the Ruach gave the writers of Scripture the words to write.

As we noted earlier in the Great Commission, Yeshua said to **"go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."** (Matthew 28:19 ^{HCSB}) By studying Scripture, we know that the Father (God) and the Son (Yeshua) and the Ruach (Holy Spirit) are all one. They are God!

The book of Acts tells the story of Ananias and Sapphira selling their land and donating the proceeds to the early Kehilah. However, they held back some of the proceeds of the sale which was clearly at their discretion, but they lied about it and said to the elders that they had given 100% of the proceeds. But notice what Kefa (Peter) said to Ananias, **"Why has the Adversary so filled your heart that you lie to the Ruach HaKodesh ... You have lied not to human beings but to God!"** (Acts 5:3-4)

In future posts, I will continue to touch on this topic of who is the Ruach by looking at His ministry before getting into discussing the gifts of the Ruach. I'm still debating with myself on the appropriate length of these posts and the frequency. Rather than prepare my usual 30-45 minute sermon and posting that, I am inclined to cut it in half and post twice a week. At any rate, my next post will cover: Did the Ruach minister in the Tanakh (Old Testament)?

My challenge for you until next time is to read B'resheet (Genesis) chapter 1.