

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Class 2 “The Operation of the Spirit”

Rocky Mountain Bible School - 2015

CONNECTIONS FROM CLASS 1

- The activity of the Spirit is primarily about transforming the mind of the flesh to the mind of the Spirit
- Our “contribution” is to believe, to love and to keep the commandments
- The Spirit’s operation, under the control of our Lord, will be like the wind - we don’t control it and we don’t always know where it is taking us
- But, we can rest assured that if our mind is a place where the Lord will abide, we are in safe hands

CLASS 2

- How has the Spirit operated in the lives of men and women in Scripture?
 - By application, how can we understand the way God “prefers” to work with Men?
 - How did the activity of the Spirit shape lives and the spiritually-discerning minds?
 - What are the implications for believers today?
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SPIRIT IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

- The Spirit in the life of believers is consistent between the Old and New Testament
- God worked in lives of men and women to shape their thinking, bring about new awareness and strengthened faith and prepare them for future work
- The angels have always been intimately engaged in this work
- While Spirit gifts existed at times, most development was through development of faith and a spiritual mind

LAST COMMANDS FROM THE LORD

“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.”

Acts 1:4

WAITING ON THE LORD

“Wait on the LORD, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Psalm 27:3

WAIT!

A thin, horizontal line of light, possibly representing a horizon or a path, stretches across the width of the slide near the bottom.

EXAMPLE

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 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. 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. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”

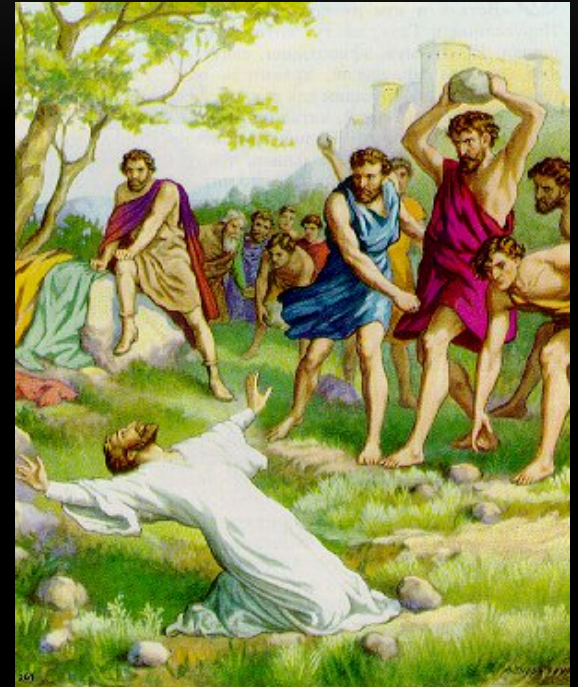
Acts 1:6-9

WE MIGHT HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS!

- When is this all going to happen? Wait how long?
- Samaria? Really? Who is going to go to Samaria? When?
- Who is going to go to the uttermost parts of the earth? When?
- Jews only or Gentiles too?
- Who is going to lead certain roles, such as caring for widows, preaching?
- Do Gentiles need to keep the Law to be saved?

HOW THESE QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED

- Persecution
- Collaboration with those once unthinkable (Saul)
- Debate and skillful use of Scripture
- Murmurings and conflict
- Brethren working out a Scripturally-based solution during a major conference after years of heated debate



THE STORY OF PHILIP

ONE OF THE SEVEN

“And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.”

Acts 6:5-6



PERSECUTION TAKES HIM TO SAMARIA



“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”

Acts 8:5-8

DISPATCHED BY AN ANGEL



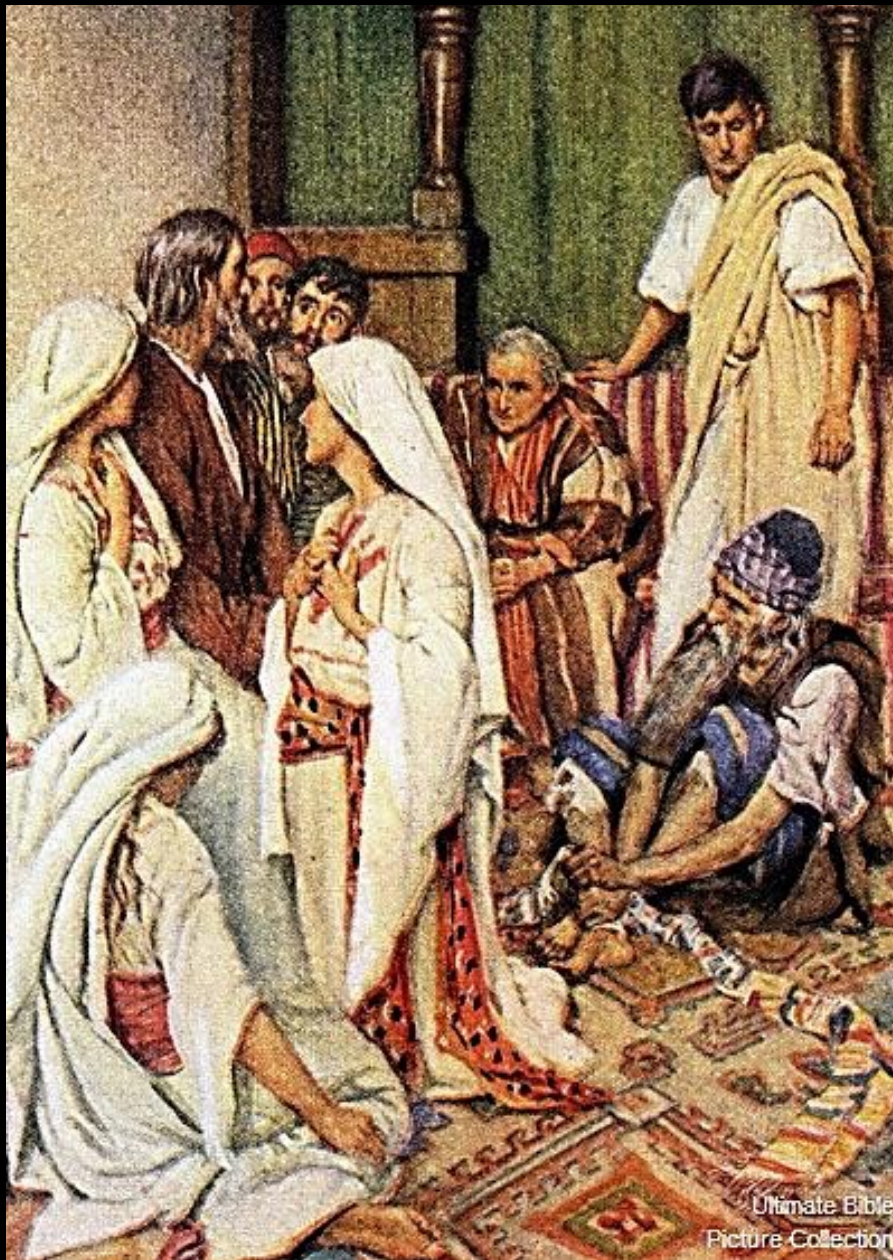
“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.”

Acts 8:26-28



Ecclesias Established in Coastal Region

Apollonia
Lydda
Joppa
Saron
Caesarea



“And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.”

Acts 21:8-9

FOR THE DISCIPLE WHO SAID “YES”

- Mentored by Apostles in Jerusalem
- Exposed to value of pastoral care as one of the seven
- Learned the principles of ecclesial formation in Samaria
- Experienced the control of the Lord in all circumstances in Gaza
- Likely formed ecclesias as he moved up coastline
- Finally, all these lessons were put to use in his home ecclesia and family in Caesarea

Who planned the development and work for Philip? Philip? This could only be the hand of the Lord – the wind moving in Philip’s life!

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TABERNACLE







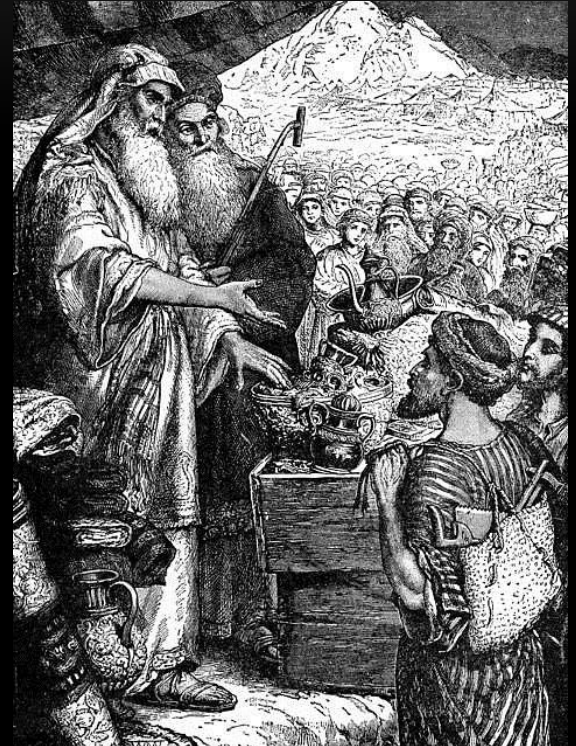
PREPARATION FOR THE WORK AHEAD

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, **in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,** To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;”

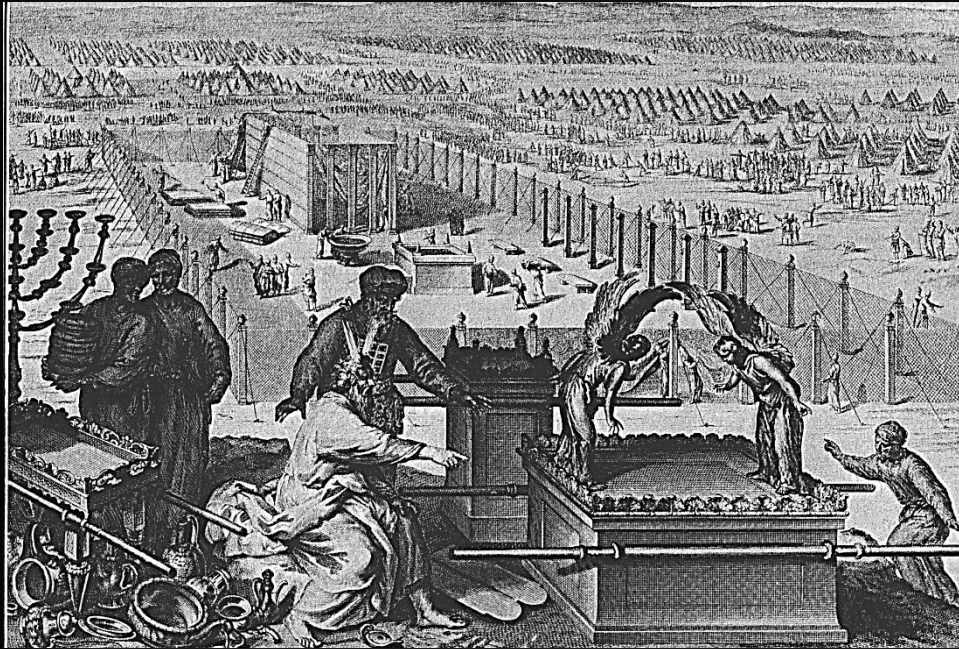
Exodus 31:1-6

EXODUS 31:1-6

- Bezaleel was one of several that were Divinely inspired to do the physical workmanship of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness
- Note, the gift was not just to guide his hands or increase his level of workmanship
- He also was given **wisdom, understanding and knowledge**.
- So, why was this detail given? Why not just give him the carpentry and trade skills?



NOT JUST ABOUT THE WORK!



- God desired Bezaleel to discern the spiritual significance of what he was building.
- God wants us, through our work, to learn and gain spiritual insight
- Bezaleel was blessed with the Spirit gift of workmanship, but it was matched with a mind focused on the Spirit

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

- Difficult conflict when working in the ecclesia – what am I supposed to learn about myself, the foundations of our fellowship?
- Working with those we preach to – what am I supposed to learn about the need of those without Truth? What can I be more sensitive about in my own understanding of the Truth?
- When we are maligned or misunderstood when serving in the ecclesia – what am I to learn about forgiveness? About swallowing my pride and taking the lead in reconciliation?

PERFECTED FOR WORK

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **make you perfect** in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

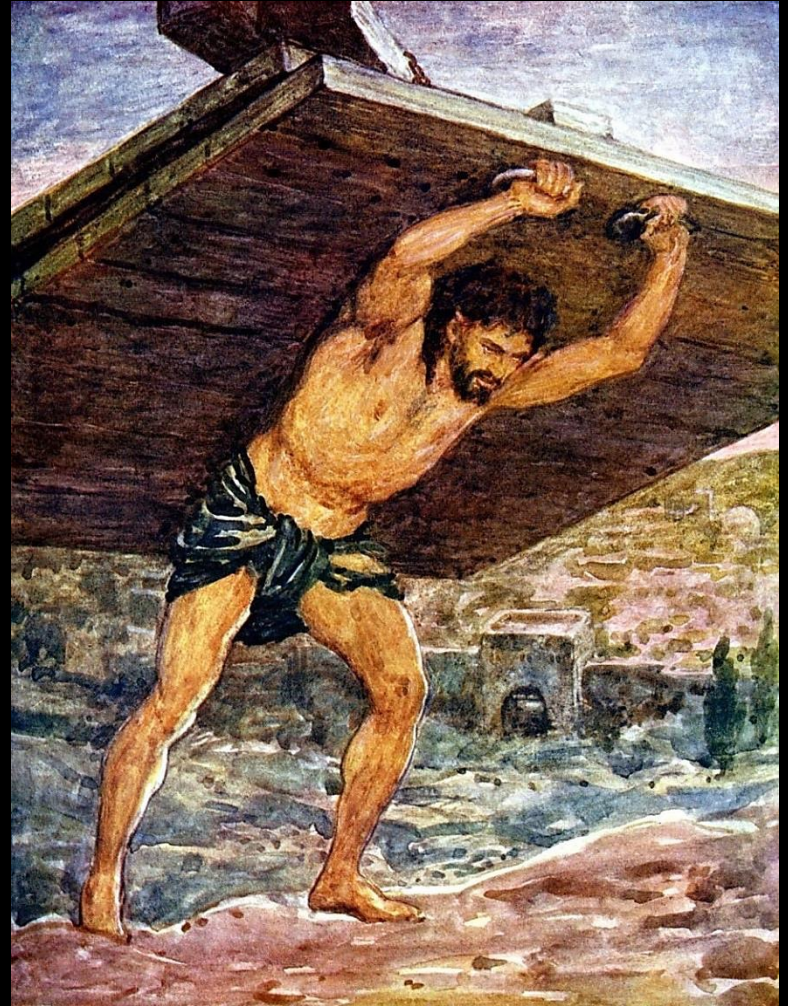
perfect – “***katartizo***” – to complete thoroughly, to mend, repair, restore. Other uses, Galatians 6:1 – “restore such an one in the spirit of meekness”. Mark 1:19 – sons of Zebedee “mending” their nets.

To restore - *katartizo*



The process the Lord employs in preparing us for work is usually gentle. He carefully repairs and restores a right mind. This doesn't mean that major events will not occur, but that the Lord prefers to deal with as a still, small voice.

SAMSON



WHAT CLEARLY DEFINED, HOW NOT

“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: **and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.**”

Judges 13:3-5

In Samson's case, his mission and the requirements for his unique service, were made clear. But, when would this start? How would he accomplish this? What would make this otherwise normal looking man so strong?

THE SPIRIT AND SAMSON

“And the Spirit of the LORD began to **move him at times** in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

Judges 13:25

“And the Spirit of the LORD **came mightily upon him**, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.”

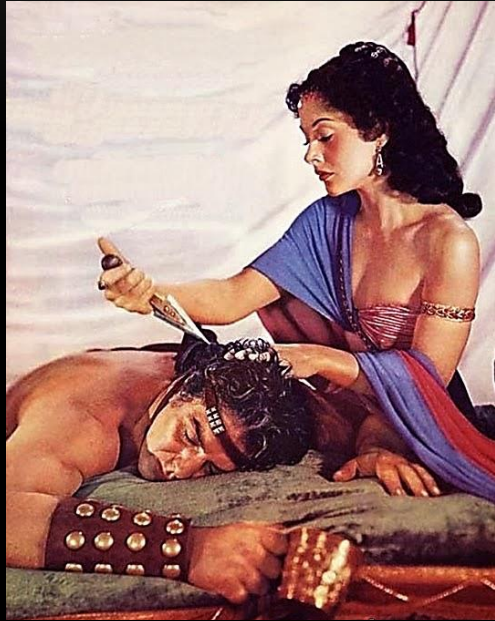
Judges 14:6

JUDGES 13:25, 14:6

- The word translated “move” in Judges 13:25 is “*paam*” which means to **impel or agitate**.
- In 14:6, the word “mightily” is “*tsalach*” which means to **push**.
- Do you believe Samson was fully conscious at all times of the goading as being from God?
- If without the push and goadings, would Samson have been responsive to the work before him?

Does this not provide us with a Bible echo regarding the metaphor Jesus used about the wind and the Spirit? We can feel it, experience it, but we don't know where it comes from or where it is going.

BUT, AFTER PARTICIPATING IN LUST OF FLESH...



“And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, **I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.** But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.”

Judges 16:20-22

Samson believed that he could count on this power regardless of his behavior. As if God's power would inhabit a sinful life.

SAME PRINCIPLE REINFORCED BY THE LORD

“Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**”

John 14:22-23

SAMSON'S EXPERIENCE

- Moved by Spirit to do work as a Judge and deliver from Philistines
- God was with him, to include Spirit gifts
- But, he became an inadequate habitation for the Spirit due to progressive participation in the lusts of the flesh
- Self-examination broken, he wasn't aware that God was not with him
- Without God, he was delivered to prison house in bonds of slavery

ONCE HE CAME TO HIS RIGHT MIND IN PRISON...

“And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.”

Judges 16:28



COMPARE TO NEW TESTAMENT COUNSEL

“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” **but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him**, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. **By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.**”

1 John 2:3-6

“LAMAD” – TO TEACH OR GOAD

“**Teach** me to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: thy spirit *is* good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.”

Psalm 143:10-11

“Shew me thy ways, O LORD; **teach** me thy paths.”

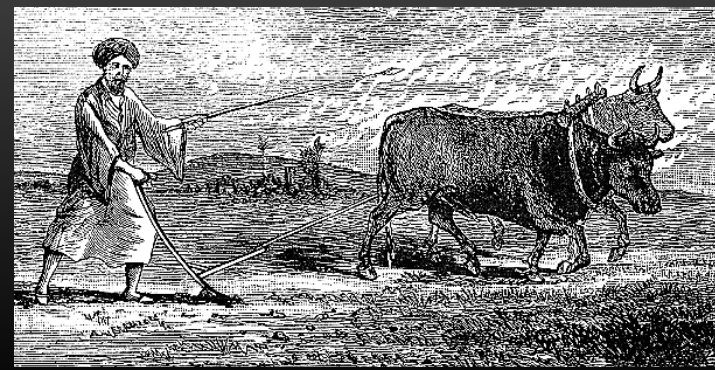
Psalm 25:4

The Hebrew word for “teach” is “***lamad***” or to goad. It is not purely academic, but involves active instruction, correction.



And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jeus whom thou persecutest: *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*"
Acts 9:5

“GOADING” OF SAUL



- Saw the faith of believers he was persecuting
- Later he reveals that he had an awareness of being “exceedingly mad” or raging fury (ESV) – self examination not functioning
- He heard the counsel of Gamaliel, but they had only continued to grow and thrive.
- He witnessed the words of Stephen, which no scholar could refute
- When he persecuted in Jerusalem, he saw new “fires” burning in other cities
- Finally, it required a physical act to stop Saul in his tracks!

1 SAMUEL 16:13



“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD **came upon** David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.”

The word here is “***tsalach***” or to push.

PREPARING DAVID FOR GOLIATH?



“David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.” 1 Samuel 17:37

APPLICATION

- We also are “goaded” or pushed along (CP John 3 – the wind)
- This will come through the reading of the Word
- But certainly it must also come through the control of circumstances in our lives – the work of the angels
- We need to change course, to grow, to learn – and the work of the Lord is to push us in the right direction
- The goading, if we respond, prepares us for good works and a strong faith that will be required in the future

HOW GOD LEADS BELIEVERS

“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, ***Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:*** But God led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 13:17-18

EXODUS 15:23-27

“And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, *which* when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee. **And they came to Elim, where *were* twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.**”

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

- Israel was unwilling to rely on God when there was no visible evidence to do so!
- If they trusted in Him, His plan would have been to care for all their needs soon – sufficient for their needs
- But, instead of trusting and growing, they murmured
- God still, through Moses, provided what they asked for
- But it was a missed opportunity for spiritual growth and discernment

What a spiritually discerning mind would have noted is that God had brought them through the desert, opened the Sea, destroyed the Egyptians and provided the pillar of fire and cloud by day – surely He would not have them die of thirst in the Wilderness!

WHAT ARE THE ELIM'S OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES?



PSALM 78:38-42

“But he, *being* full of compassion, forgave *their* iniquity, and destroyed *them* not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. For he remembered that they *were but* flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert! Yea, ***they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.*** They remembered not his hand, *nor* the day when he delivered them from the enemy.”

HOW OFTEN?

- Do we find ourselves wondering why things couldn't be easier? (difficulties in the ecclesia, repair of relationships, success in preaching)
- Do we forget that the Lord is leading our journey and knows all our needs?
- Is the weakness of our faith assessed by God as needing special care and less direct roads?
- Do we unwittingly "limit" the Holy one of Israel?

LEADING NOT INTO TEMPTATION

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. **And lead us not into temptation**, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

Matthew 6:9-13

IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PRAYER

- God has a accurate assessment of what we can and cannot handle
 - He will take us the way of the “wilderness of the Red Sea” to avoid overwhelming obstacles
 - His work with us is to increase our faith, that the man of God may be “thoroughly furnished”
 - He will goad or push us into paths that build faith and avoid sin
-

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Do we find these same influences and Divine movements being promised to believers?

GOD WORKING THROUGH MEN

“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, **that they are wrought in God**.” John 3:21

“And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and **they declared all things that God had done with them**.” Acts 15:4

“And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly **what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry**.” Acts 21:19

EPHESIANS 4:20-24

“But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

- “learned” is “*manthano*.” Vines defines as “not merely the doctrine of Christ, but Christ himself.” Not merely getting to know the person, but so applying the knowledge to walk differently.”
- This “process” is a continual renewal process. It is the “renewing of the spirit of your mind.”

HEBREWS 12:5-7,10-11

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he **chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of **righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**”

OUR GOADING – HEBREWS 12

- “chastening” is the Greek word, “**paideia**” or tutoring, education, correction, discipline.
- God works with us this way. The result is that we either accept it and know that he is doing this for our good, or we rebel
- The question is, what am I supposed to learn from this? How is God trying to educate or teach me? How is this teaching me to be more holy?
- If we do this, then it provides us with the “peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”
- Exercised is “**gumnazo**” which means to practice or train for a race or Olympic competition.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-9

“For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. ***For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*** He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, ***but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.*** But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”

SUMMARY

- The activity of God through His Spirit has been consistent for believers since Eden
- There is an intimacy – not one size fits all – He knows **YOU** and your needs
- If we forsake sin, the Father and Son will make their abode with us
- He is shaping our minds to be like His
- He is readying us for work that He has prepared in advance for us to do
- He moves us, guides us, GOADS us in the right direction
- He intends for us to find great comfort and encouragement from His work in our lives

HYMN 142

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs, and works His sovereign will.
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy, and will break in blessings on your head.
His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

PROVERBS 12:10-11

“The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.”

“Then I tried to explain these things in the best and most accurate way. Words of wisdom are like the stick a farmer uses to make animals move. These sayings come from God, our only shepherd, and they are like nails that fasten things together.” CEV

NEXT CLASS

Prepared Unto All Good Works