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Where Is The Power?

Dear Friend,

It isn't every day that the Holy Ghost gives me a thought that I've never thought before. Recently, the Holy Ghost did just that and gave me something I am still rolling over on the inside. How does He do it? How does the Holy Ghost bring you to a place where He can show you something for the first time? Before we answer that question, allow me to explain the process the Holy Spirit used to prepare me for having this thought.

The process the Holy Ghost uses for teaching us new things might best be compared to experiencing a new place. Let's say, for example, we have a week of vacation coming up and want to visit a place unfamiliar to us, like Alaska. Since I have never been to Alaska it is impossible for me draw from any memories of past experiences.

Once I've made the decision to go to Alaska I might begin to envision what I'm going to see using brochures and websites to help me paint a picture in my imagination of what to expect. But first, it is necessary for my attention to be drawn to Alaska. In other words, it is impossible for a person to begin thinking and envisioning a place they have never been to without first having their attention drawn to that place and some information about that place being given to them, whether by words or pictures.

Using our example of Alaska, let's say you have never had a thought about visiting Alaska and have never done any research on Alaska so there are no images from which to draw. You are not going to wake up one day and out of the clear blue start envisioning points of interest in Alaska. You have no frame of reference for your mind to draw from. That's the same dilemma the Holy Ghost faces when He is trying to take you to a place you have never been in the Word of God.

It's as though we think the Holy Ghost is going to drop something on us from out in left field without us first having the ground work laid in our hearts to receive this

new thought. That is not possible. Just like it is not possible for us to envision visiting places in which we have no previous knowledge. What's more, if we have never heard about a place, let alone seen any pictures, that place isn't even on our radar.

For instance, a person might have heard about the state of Alaska, and they might have even heard of the city of Anchorage, but with no other information than this these are just names on a map. Something has to first peak their interest and motivate them to turn their attention towards Alaska.

Maybe a friend has returned from an Alaskan vacation and begins to share pictures of their trip or a commercial on TV or an ad appears in a magazine showing the beautiful mountains of Alaska. Whatever the case, their attention must first be drawn to Alaska. Then, they must either see pictures or hear or read detailed descriptions about specific places before they can begin to envision these places. This is why travel agents line their walls with full color photos of destinations so that customers can envision these places and begin seeing themselves visiting them.

This same principle holds true with how the Holy Ghost teaches us new things from God's Word. Let's say, for example, that all the possible lessons that He could teach us from the Word are represented as geographic points of interest on a map. Because it is God's Word, the points of interest are limitless. So, how is it that with an unlimited array of possible destinations the Holy Spirit is able to draw our attention to one specific place? Referring back to our illustration; our attention had to first be drawn specifically to Alaska by either our friend's experience or advertisements.

Here is where it seems to me that we Christians mistakenly presume that that gentle nudge or urge to look up a specific verse is just us, instead of recognizing that it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in us. We think we originated a thought or an idea when all the while it was the Holy Ghost influencing our thoughts. Who knows better what we are ready to receive and when? If given the opportunity, the Holy Ghost will systematically guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)

“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth...”

He doesn't "guide us into all truth" by forcing Himself into our life and demanding that we learn something. We must first open the door to His ministry, which I have found to be accomplished by praying in tongues. Then, as we open our Bibles, it is amazing to me how He gets involved with what we read and begins to peak our interest in specific directions. So much of this is accomplished through

His desires becoming our desires because we have opened the door to His ministry. (Philippians 2:13)

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

The word “will” in this verse can also be translated to mean “desire”. This is the first thing I noticed after making Jesus the Lord of my life, and especially after being filled with the Holy Ghost; my desires changed. A desire for the things of God filled my reborn human spirit from wall to wall. Before coming to God, my desires were contrary to God’s desires. It was only after coming to Jesus and surrendering my life to Him that I noticed my desires changed.

By surrendering to God we give Him the right to influence our desires. He doesn’t control us. He isn’t a dictator. It is our desires being influenced by His desires for us. **We can yield to those promptings or we can resist them, it is our choice.** If you are like me you want to yield to God in every area. By continuing to yield to His subtle promptings we give the Holy Ghost the ability to draw our attention to any point of interest on His map.

So, let’s return to where we began, specifically the lesson to which the Holy Spirit wanted to draw my attention. It began as a **desire** to go back and look at the ministry of the Holy Ghost in the book of Acts. Come to find out, it was a desire that originated in God and not me. It was the Holy Ghost isolating a specific area on His map and drawing my attention to it. As I began to read the book of Acts, certain verses describing the ministry of the Holy Ghost began to stand out beginning with Jesus’ description in chapter 1.

I urge you to resist thinking; **“I have heard this all before.”** Unfortunately, this thought is what keeps us held in check by the enemy, thinking we have received everything possible from any part of God’s Word. That, my friend, is a thought straight from the pit of hell.

In the future when you feel prompted to turn to a verse that is all too familiar to you, ask yourself; **Is this verse a place that I have truly experienced or is it just a name on a map?** Sadly for me, I discovered Acts 1 had become a name on a map. I had not yet appreciated the fullness of what Jesus Himself said I would experience once the Holy Ghost had come upon me. These were still words on a page, a spot on a map, and not a reality in my life.

I think about all of the times I mistakenly believed I had milked every ounce of revelation out of a particular verse only to have the Holy Ghost shine a light on it

and reveal a deeper understanding that I had not seen before. Had I not yielded to His promptings to turn my attention to that verse I would have missed the deeper understanding. In so doing I would have tied His hands and limited His ministry to me.

What's worse is when we ignore His promptings because the understanding we have of a certain verse is actually a man-made idea. That is why we now have so many denominations preaching doctrines that are contrary to each other. We have failed to allow the Holy Ghost to teach us truth by insisting to hold on to man-made doctrine instead.

Back to my example, now that He had isolated this point of interest on this huge map, Acts 1, it was time for me to begin to envision myself in this place that I have never been before with the Holy Ghost.

Here's the verse that the Holy Ghost used to grab my attention and convince me of my misconception. (Acts 1:8)

“But, you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.”

This entire verse stood out to me, but especially the word **power**! In case you are wondering what kind of power Jesus is referring to here, it isn't the word associated with “authority”, which is the Greek word “exousia”. This word translated “power” in the original Greek was “dynamis” from which we get words like dynamo or dynamite. Jesus is talking about **the power of God** flowing through a person because of the presence of the Holy Ghost within them.

The Holy Ghost had successfully drawn my attention, through His influencing my desire, to this unique place on the map of God's Word. He was showing me that I had allowed this place of richness to become a spot on the map. And, I was not able to envision myself in this place because I had not allowed Him to build within me a frame of reference. He followed all this up in me by asking this one question, “**Where is the power?**” What a question!

Ask yourself this question, “**Where is the power?**” Are you like me, has this verse become a name on a map for which you have no frame of reference? Maybe you're thinking “I don't see anyone else with the power. I have no examples.” On the contrary, God gave us the entire book of Acts with one example after another to show us the **power** we have access to in the person of the Holy Ghost through our authority in the Name of Jesus.

For instance, Peter and John walked into the temple at the hour of prayer and came across a lame man who was begging for alms at the gate Beautiful. Peter looked at the man who was expecting to receive something from him and he said, (Acts 3:6)

“...silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”

Notice what Peter didn't say, “Father, heal this poor lame man.” No, Peter knew that he had received something. What he had received was the power of God, in the person of the Holy Ghost. He also received the authority in the Name of Jesus, as a son of God, which enabled him to activate the ministry of the Holy Ghost to heal this man causing him to rise up and walk. Peter wasn't the source of the power of God, the source was the Holy Ghost. But, by Peter exercising his authority in the earth he became a vessel through which the Holy Ghost could manifest.

In some regards, Peter **did control** the ministry of the Holy Ghost. Had Peter said nothing and walked past the lame man could the Holy Spirit have ministered healing to him? No. The door to ministry to this man had to be opened to the Holy Ghost by someone having the authority in the earth to use the name of Jesus. Peter's authority as a child of God speaking words of faith to this man was the door the Holy Ghost was able to use to minister healing to him.

This is where the Holy Ghost wanted to take me, and I believe you as well. He wants us to go to this place of seeing the power of God flowing through us on a regular basis. He wants us to stop looking at Acts 1 as a spot on a map to which we have no connection. He wants us to envision ourselves exercising our authority in the earth as sons of God. By speaking words of faith we empower the Holy Ghost to minister to those around us who are in need.

This **is not** something reserved exclusively for the disciples or for those in the book of Acts. Nor is it power reserved for preachers. God intends for all of His children to accept their responsibility as His sons and give the Holy Ghost what He needs to minister to those in need. What He needs is our authority being released by speaking faith filled words that set the captive free.

Allow the Holy Ghost to lead you by desire to the points of interest on His map, the Word of God, and see those spots on the map become a reality in your life. If you will do this, He will give you thoughts you have never had before. Don't try to

tell Him what you want Him to teach you, allow Him to lead you to where He wants you to go in the Word.

None of us really knows what we need or what we are ready to receive from the Holy Ghost. He's the true Teacher of the Body of Christ and is the one best suited to teach us what we are ready to hear, when we are ready to hear it. Trust Him! Rest in His ability to lead you even when you don't know it's Him. If we'll do this, I know the Holy Ghost will respond and guide us step by step into **all truth**.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins