

Escape From Babylon

The Series Part 34

Why Does God Allow The Disobedient To Use His Holy Spirit?

One of the greatest deceptive powers the Devil uses is signs and wonders. People do not clearly understand what they perceive. The assumption goes something like this: “Well, they did that one miracle, they said that one prayer that was answered, they foretold that one event, then they must be fully in line with God. Therefore, everything they say and teach must be God’s will.” This line of thinking always really bothered me. I see the danger of it while most do not perceive the great error. This led me to wonder, why do so many Christians who have rebelled against God are allowed the power of the Holy Spirit? I pondered why God still blessed their works and prayers with spiritual power, while they so clearly rejected obedience and submission. I know grace, mercy, and time is given to all. Yet, how then do they still walk at times as ones who have received the fullness of God, while rejecting the fullness of submission? I first thought that the spirit is available generally and is allowed to be accessed according to their faith and understanding at the time, which most likely still holds some merit. Yet it fails my understanding to reveal what is truly going on. Then I read the following verse, and God revealed to me the answer to my long held question:

Matthew 20:16 “So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen.”

- It is the calling that brings the power, the manner and way God has called them that provides the power in the blessing.
- They are then able to walk in this calling, yet they have not submitted themselves fully to qualify as chosen.

“For many are called, but few are chosen”

● Here we see God provides these gifts at His own discretion.

Hebrews 2:4 “God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders, by various works of power, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?”

● Here we see God provides each person a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

● Here we see that Grace is given by God in measure to each person.

Ephesians 4:7 “But to each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”

● For those who believe and walk in the measure of gifts, grace, and faith given them will do spiritual works.

Mark 16:17-18 “These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; (18) they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

● Yet, these works can be burned up if performed in the wrong manner.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 “Each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is. (14) If any man’s work remains which he built on it, he will receive a reward. (15) If any man’s work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but as through fire.”

● The minister working in the power of God must remain faithful until the end.

Ephesians 4:1 “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,”

Please review Escape From Babylon- Part 22: “Once Saved, Always Saved”. As we prove you can walk in the spirit and calling, but still not receive the completion of salvation.

● Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” receives salvation, despite any miracles worked by their hands in the power of God.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) Many will tell me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?’ (23) Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.’”

● As we know His word is power and will accomplish His goals, despite the vessel He might choose to use to do it.

Isaiah 55:11 “My word, which comes from my mouth, is like the rain and snow. It will not come back to me without results. It will accomplish whatever I want and achieve whatever I send it to do.”

● It is therefore not the person, but the power of God that does the work.

John 3:2 “The same came to him by night, and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.”

Acts 3:12-13 “When Peter saw it, he responded to the people, “You men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you fasten your eyes on us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk?” (13) The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up, and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to release, (16) By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”

● As we can see here again, it is God not the man.

Acts 19:11 “And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:”

● This is part of being “Called.” God provides every opportunity for them to learn to get it right by applying correct understanding, action, and grow spiritually.

This is meant to provoke in their hearts obedience and submission.

1 Peter 1:15-16 “But, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, (16) for it is written, “You shall be holy, because I am holy.”

When People Fall Away

● Paul ran the race and kept the faith, and I believe will receive the fullness of his faith and works.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

● But we can see another example, found in Judas, who was given this power and failed to remain in it.

✗ As Judas was given the power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 9:1-6 “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (2) And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (3) And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. (4) And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. (5) And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. (6) And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere.”

✖ Then later the Devil enters Judas.

Luke 22:3-6 “Satan entered into Judas, who was also called Iscariot, who was counted with the twelve. (4) He went away, and talked with the chief priests and captains about how he might deliver him to them. (5) They were glad, and agreed to give him money. (6) He consented, and sought an opportunity to deliver him to them in the absence of the multitude.”

✖ Then Judas betrays Jesus.

Luke 22:47-48 “While he was still speaking, behold, a multitude, and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him. (48) But Jesus said to him, “Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

✖ Then Judas commits suicide.

Matthew 27:3-5 “Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, (4) Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. (5) And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

● As we can clearly see, it is the calling that provides the benefits and God empowers people with a pre-determined measure of grace, faith, and gifts to initiate the down payment of their salvation. This allows them to operate for a time in the gifts.

Ephesians 1:12-14 “To the end that we should be to the praise of his glory, we who had before hoped in Christ. (13) In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of his glory.”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 “Now he who establishes us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; (22) who also sealed us, and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts.”

● Yet the measure of grace does not last forever, and they cannot be chosen without submission and obedience. Their disobedience wears out the down payment of God in the Holy Spirit. This persistent disobedience is an abuse of the Holy Spirit and the power given them.

Ephesians 4:30 “Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Luke 12:45-48 “But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My lord delays his coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken, (46) then the lord of that servant will come in a day when he isn’t expecting him, and in an hour that he doesn’t know, and will cut him in two, and place his portion with the unfaithful. (47) That servant, who knew his lord’s will, and didn’t prepare, nor do what he wanted, will be beaten with many stripes, (48) but he who didn’t know, and did things worthy of stripes, will be beaten with few stripes. To whomever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked.”

● **They pervert the gifts and subvert the purpose of the Holy Spirit, setting themselves up as the source of the power. Rejecting the full leading of the Spirit of God.**

Matthew 12:31-32 “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. (32) Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, neither in this age, nor in that which is to come.”

James 2:7 “Don’t they blaspheme the honorable name by which you are called?”

● **We can see an example of misuse of the power of God by Moses.**

Numbers 20:8-9 “Take the rod, and assemble the congregation, you, and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it pour out its water. You shall bring water to them out of the rock; so you shall give the congregation and their livestock drink.” (9) Moses took the rod from before Yahweh, as he commanded him.”

✗ **Then Moses disobeys, but the power of God stays, even in the disobedience.**

Numbers 20:10-11 “Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Shall we bring water out of this rock for you?” (11) Moses lifted up his hand, and struck the rock with his rod twice, and water came out abundantly. The congregation and their livestock drank.”

✗ **Yet, Moses Still Gets Punished.**

Numbers 20:12 “Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you didn’t believe in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

Please do notice that to God, Obedience is equated to Belief!

Obedience = Belief

● Therefore the measure of the faith, grace, and gifts from God must be culminated and lead the person to fully obey God.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 “Don’t you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run like that, that you may win. (25) Every man who strives in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. (26) I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, (27) but I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected.”

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 “For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. (8) Consequently the one who rejects this is not rejecting human authority but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

Lying Signs & Wonders

● Don’t just believe your eyes. They will deceive you.

Matthew 24:24-25 “For there will arise false christs, and false prophets, and they will show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones. (25) “Behold, I have told you beforehand.”

Revelation 13:13-14 “He performed momentous signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people (14) and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth. He told those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived.”

Revelation 16:13-14 “I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, something like frogs; (14) for they are spirits of demons, performing signs; which go out to the kings of the whole inhabited earth, to gather them together for the war of that great day of God, the Almighty.”

● At the end of time, signs and wonders will be all that they will want to believe.

John 4:47-48 “When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. (48) Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.”

● And again we see this example of true and false miracles. For every truth, the devil will try to fabricate the false.

Exodus 7:8-13 “And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, (9) When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

✖ True

(10) And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

✖ False

(11) Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. (12) For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (13) And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said."

Test DON'T Guess

Just because we are given power when we are called by God, does not mean we are chosen, or that our works will not get burned up. The work done in God's name is not the singular proof of a righteous minister of God. As Jesus has said, we must judge the fruit. We must ask: does their life and ministry message line up with scripture?

🔴 You must test the Spirits.

1 John 4:1-3 "Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, (3) and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already."

🔴 You must test the miracle workers.

Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. (16) By their fruits you will know them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? (17) Even so, every good tree produces good fruit; but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. (18) A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. (19) Every tree that doesn't grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. (20) Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

Let's Recap

● God provides spiritual gifts at His own discretion.

Hebrews 2:4 “and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?”

● God provides each person a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

● God gives a measure of grace to each person.

Ephesians 4:7 “But to each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”

● Yet despite all these blessings from God, some will receive them in vain.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10 “Now because we are fellow workers, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2) For he says, “I heard you at the acceptable time, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! (3) We do not give anyone an occasion for taking an offense in anything, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. (4) But as God’s servants, we have commended ourselves in every way, with great endurance, in persecutions, in difficulties, in distresses, (5) in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in troubles, in sleepless nights, in hunger, (6) by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by benevolence, by the Holy Spirit, by genuine love, (7) by truthful teaching, by the power of God, with weapons of righteousness both for the right hand and for the left, (8) through glory and dishonor, through slander and praise; regarded as impostors, and yet true; (9) as unknown, and yet well-known; as dying and yet – see! – we continue to live; as those who are scourged and yet not executed; (10) as sorrowful, but always rejoicing, as poor, but making many rich, as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”

1 Timothy 6:11-15 “But you, as a person dedicated to God, keep away from all that. Instead pursue righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. (12) Compete well for the faith and lay hold of that eternal life you were called for and made your good confession for in the presence of many witnesses. (13) I charge you before God who gives life to all things and Christ Jesus who made his good confession before Pontius Pilate, (14) to obey this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (15) – whose appearing the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, will reveal at the right time.”

Closing Verses

Opening Verse:

Matthew 20:16 “So the last will be first, and the first last.

For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Compared to Our Closing Verse:

Revelation 17:14 “They will make war with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those accompanying the Lamb are the called, chosen, and faithful.”

As we can clearly see it is by God’s will and grace that He gives those He is calling a portion of grace, faith, and the Holy Spirit. They must choose how they will respond in this. God will give them time to exercise these gifts to allow them time to grow. This does not mean they are some “super Christians”, as it is truly God that does the work. They are just a tool used by God. To continue in this gifting, they must choose obedience or they will have received the grace of God in vain. In this they will have blasphemed the Holy Spirit by supplanting its role in the heart and development of the believer. Reject His leading and demanding the will of self over God. Then all their works will be burned up as they were not done in submission, but rejection of God’s leading.

Therefore, we will not stand in awe of signs and wonders- real or not. We will test the spirit and the fruits and follow the Bible as our rock solid guide of protection directed in the Holy Spirit. In this, we will protect our hearts and minds from the deception of the devil’s disobedient ways.

Obedience = Belief