

Holy Spirit Workshop: Episode 2 Holy Spirit Whispers

1 Kings 19:11-13

The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Juxtaposing Power vs. Presence

The modern Holy Spirit movement has too often erred in the pursuit of the God of the earthquake and failed in its desire for the God of the whisper.

*"When we have really met and known the world in **silence**, words do not separate us from the world nor from other men, nor from God, nor from ourselves because we no longer trust entirely in language to contain reality." Thomas Merton¹*

"Words cannot contain nor express eternity."

- **Lesson:** Let us not get enamored with God's power. God is not in every act of power associated with the movement of the Holy Spirit.
- **The Spirit of God moves in power**, but the initiative of that power flows from a place of presence, silence and solitude.
 - *Rarely will the voice of stillness before God lead you astray.*
 - **John 10:27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:9** The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with all kinds of false miracles, signs, and wonders,¹⁰ and with every unrighteous deception among those who are perishing.

¹ <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1220202-thoughts-in-solitude>

Understanding The Holy Spirit

We need to **compartmentalize** the gift of the Holy Spirit for salvation and operating in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.

- **The Gift of the H.S. for salvation: Acts 2:38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **The Gifts of the H.S. for ministry: 1 Corinthians 12:1** Brothers and sisters, I want you to know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- **The Power of the Holy Spirit: Acts Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- **The Fruit of the Holy Spirit:** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Holy Spirit ministry is more about presence than it is about power.

- **1 Kings 19:11-13** The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the **presence** of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Cultivating the Presence

Modeling the ministry of Jesus

- **Prayer:** Matt 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.
- **Solitude:** Luke 5:16 But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.
- **Meditation:** Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

TRANSCENDENCE

“Classically, there are three ways in which humans try to find transcendence--religious meaning--apart from God as revealed through the cross of Jesus: through the ecstasy of alcohol and drugs, through the ecstasy of recreational sex, through the ecstasy of crowds. Church leaders frequently warn against the drugs and the sex, but at least, in America, almost never against the crowds.”

— Eugene H. Peterson, [The Pastor: A Memoir](#)