

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MINISTRY AND MISSIONS

Sang-Bok David Kim\*

INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

Greetings from the Land of Morning Calm, Korea! It is a high honor and privilege for me to speak to this august body of Asian evangelical leaders for this occasion of the Global Congress on Church Ministry and Mission.

I am one of those Kims from Korea, of whom our chairman talked about last night, who will be hit every time they throw stones in Korea. Dr. Myunghyuk Kim of KEF, Sang-Bok Kim, the present speaker, Jungil Kim, president of North Korea and Daejung Kim, president of South Korea. Oh yes, Korea is the kingdom of Kims! A moment ago, our chair also talked about the people who are sitting in the back to come forward and sit in the front so that those who come late may sit in the back. But I saw sometime ago a sign in a Jewish synagogue which said, "Come early and take back seats."

Our subject today is "the Holy Spirit in Ministry and Missions." The text comes from John 14:12-18. We read from the text about six great things: great truth, great faith, great works, great commandments, great prayers, and the Great Spirit. I know God loves ordinary people, because He made a lot of them. He calls them, changes them, makes them great, uses them for His kingdom and receives glory from them. In ministry and missions, God accomplishes great things through them by the power of great prayers and the Great Spirit.

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\*Rev. Dr. Sang-Bok David Kim, ThD, DLitt, DD, is currently Senior Pastor of Hallelujah Christian Church in Bundang, Korea and President Emeritus and Professor of Systematic Theology at Torch Trinity Graduate School of Theology, Seoul, Korea. Dr. Kim currently serves as chairman of several organizations including Asian Theological Association, Evangelical Fellowship of Asia, Korean World Missions Association, and PAD (Presidents and Academic Deans Congress).

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## GREAT TRUTH

The Lord said, “Truly, truly, I say unto you...” (v. 12). He could make statements without saying “truly, truly” (amen, amen). He could have spoken with just one “truly,” but he hasn’t and repeated himself saying “truly, truly.” He wished to highlight the significance of what he was about to say and demanded total attention from His audience and likewise demands the same from the readers of the Bible today. Even if He doesn’t use the double “amen,” we are willing to listen to His word, of course. However, whenever we read the double “truly, truly,” we all must sit up and take full notice of the forthcoming statement Jesus will make. Now let us pay close attention to His great truth. He is teaching us from the text today.

## GREAT FAITH

Jesus said, “...anyone who believes in me (v. 12) ... anyone who loves me (v. 17)...” People believe in a wide range of things, some believing in a rabbit foot, a pig head, a fish bone, others believing in idols of trees, stones, iron, moon, saints or even “Mary, the Mother of God.” People are prone to believe in almost anything which is created and which makes them feel secure except God the Creator of all those created objects. They buy pigs, raise them and slaughter one, roast it, eat the pork and ham, but cut off its head, place it on a table, sticking money into its nostrils and then bow to it for prosperity. They cut a tree down, cut it into halves, chop one half, use the wood for fire, and the other half is carved into an idol to worship. If a war breaks out, they would carry it on their shoulders and move it to another place and then bow to it asking for safety. My grandfather used to worship with other villagers a huge tree in his backyard before a missionary visited his village and introduced the Creator of the tree to him.

However, if anyone is to believe in Jesus Christ as the incarnated Son of God and the Savior who died on the cross for his sins and who resurrected, he has found a great faith, which saves him for eternity. Such faith is a gift of God, which a person himself cannot generate on his own. Believers have great faith, which is a special work of the Holy Spirit. Life is always a gift. We all have received it from our parents. We haven’t done anything to earn it or deserve it. It was simply a gift of our parents, a gift of love. We are eternally grateful to them for it. So we honor them, not because they are rich or famous, but they are

simply the giver of our life. We owe them our love and devotion for no other reason than that they are our parents. The same is true with God for our eternal life, which is nothing more than His grace, freely given by God to all. There is no one who is born once in this life and who cannot receive eternal life. Jesus died and rose again and the redemption for sinners is accomplished once for all. Hell is not for man, but hell is a place “prepared for the Devil and his angels” (Matt 25:41). No human being needs to go there since Jesus came. Heaven is open for us all, who put their trust in Jesus the Son of God and who simply turn toward heaven for eternity. Now there is hope for all. This is the greatest news ever proclaimed for humanity. No other faith or religion offers such salvation so freely as Christ does. This is indeed a great faith.

Recently, I met a man in his middle 60’s who has been a strong Buddhist and an unbreakable opponent to the Christian faith all his life. While he was still a Buddhist, he once went to a temple and was told to bow repeatedly to the ground one hundred and fifty times. He was to stand, to go down on his knees, to put his hands and his forehead down on the ground, and to repeat the motion in the same manner 150 times. He proceeded to try. He confessed, though he did it, that he got sick for the next few weeks. It was so tough that he would never do it again. Then once he traveled a far distance to meet the most revered monk in the country, who refused to give him an audience unless he does one thousand such bowings. What self-discipline! But of course, this man gave up any hope to see him, let alone a hope for a Buddhist salvation! However, eternal salvation is absolutely a free gift of God which the Heavenly Father offers to anyone who simply puts his trust in His Son Jesus Christ for it. This is great news and a great faith. Faith in Jesus Christ is a great faith, because God offers it freely. Recently this ardent Buddhist became a born-again Christian. He who believes in Jesus also loves Him for His amazing grace. He who loves Jesus is a believer in Him (vv. 12, 17). A believer in Jesus becomes a lover of Jesus. This is a great faith, which is available to anyone.

#### GREAT MINISTRY

We need to define ministry and missions. Ministry is the spiritual work which carries out the will of God for this world, and missions is the same that is done in the cross-cultural context. Whether it is done at home or abroad, ministry and missions are primarily spiritual works of

God. Spiritual works can never be done without the Holy Spirit. Spiritual works must be done spiritually. Jesus came to do the will of the Father for the redemption of mankind. His primary ministry was threefold: teaching, preaching, and healing (Matt 4:23), teaching the divine truth to people, preaching the gospel of the kingdom proclaiming, “Repent! The Kingdom of God is at hand,” and healing the troubled and the sick in body and mind, the sick with demon-possession and the demon-possessed. The Son of God came to liberate people from their spiritual ignorance, spiritual bondage, and spiritual brokenness.

His threefold ministry is what all those who believe and love Him are to be engaged in during their lives. “Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (v. 12). We are all called to do great things. What is the purpose of one’s faith in Jesus Christ? To do the same ministry as Jesus Christ and to do even greater things. The disciples of Jesus were ordinary people, several of them Galilean fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, a radical revolutionary, and mostly weak vessels. Faith in Christ changes ordinary men and women into extra-ordinary people who will do great things with eternal significance. Anything that is short of eternal value is not a great work. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are challenged to devote their lives to the ministry which will bring about the eternal fruits. Nothing in this world is eternal except God, the Word and man. God is eternal. The Word is eternal. Man is eternal. Man is worth more than the whole world. The works done for God, for the Word and for man have great worth, because it produces eternal results. Jesus used the word, “greater.” Christian life is basically a great life doing great things for the Great God. As Hudson Taylor properly said, “Dream great things for God. Attempt great things for God. Accomplish great things for God!” Christians are to live nothing short of a great life for the Great God.

### GREAT COMMANDMENTS

The believers in Jesus Christ love Him. Those who love him obey His commandments. “If you love me, you will obey what I command” (v. 15). Doing His commandments at home and abroad is ministry and missions. I refer to three of His great commandments.

### The Great Commission Commandment

World evangelization, “Go ye therefore making them disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe to do whatsoever I commanded unto you” (Matt 28:19). Here is a core value of this Congress. Ministry and missions are all included in this commandment. Time is drawing close to the fulfillment of this Commission. Most of the unreached peoples of the world are researched, adopted, prayed for and contacted by missionaries who are being sent out to establish churches. “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached unto all nations and the end will come” (Matt 24:14). The whole world will be ultimately reached with the gospel. People will come to the Lord from every nation, language and people group. We do pray that the Bridegroom will come in our generation. Lord Jesus, come quickly. I am waiting for Him everyday. Are you? One day there will be in heaven a countless number of people with white robes from every tongue, people, tribe, nation, praising God and the Lamb together. May that day be one day in our lifetime as we fulfill the Great Commission.

### The Great Shepherding Commandment

The Lord Jesus challenged all those who love Him to do pastoral-care ministry whether he/she is a full-time pastor or a layperson. “If you love me, feed my lamb. I am going away to the Father” (John 21:15-17). Jesus repeated this statement thrice to call Peter, who denied Him three times, to pastoral ministry that all his sheep may be properly cared for.

### The Great Love Commandment

“I give you a new commandment. Love one another just as I have loved you. If you love one another, all men will know that you are my disciples” (John 13:34-35). This is one of the greatest commandments, because God is love and love is supreme (1 Cor 13:11-3, 13). All of the law and the prophets are summarized in one word - love. Jesus came to this world to demonstrate such love through His sacrificial death on the cross in order to redeem mankind. There is no greater ministry than the ministry of love. If we believe in Jesus and love Him, we will do the great ministries. He has been doing on earth and live our lives to carry

out His great commandments. Such is a great life for ordinary people obeying the Great Commission commandment, the great shepherding commandment and the great love commandment.

### GREAT PRAYERS

We who are ordinary people and yet believe and love Jesus will live a great life obeying the great commandments and often doing “greater works than these,” because we can approach God with great prayers. We are finite with many limitations. Ordinary people with limitations trying to carry out spiritual works which are to produce eternal results is next to impossible. Spiritual works must be done spiritually and must be accomplished by the Spirit. There is no other way. This is possible only when God intervenes with the man and his ministry. How then? Through prayers! What we are capable of doing as human beings are limited when we do spiritual things with our own abilities. In our ministry and missions when we try to give adequate pastoral care to those who are confronted with the big challenges of life, our hands are too short with our own finite resources to bring about spiritual results. So the Lord granted us the privilege to approach the Father in prayer and ask in the name of Jesus, His Son, whatever needs we have and He promised that He would do it. This gives us the assurance of answered prayer.

When we pray, heaven opens. Our limitation is removed because as soon as we pray, God intervenes. When Jesus was praying, following His baptism, the Scripture says, “Heaven was open, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and the voice from heaven came, ‘This is my beloved Son.’” (Matt 3:16). Prayer opens heaven. We can hear the loving voice of God speaking to us. The Holy Spirit will descend upon you. This is remarkable. Great things happen when we pray. Jesus said, “I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (v. 16). What a privilege that is ours! The Son Himself told us to ask anything in His name and He will do it. Prayer brings glory to the Father. More prayers bring more glory to the Father. Each time a prayer is answered, God receives glory because it is He who accomplishes great things, beyond our own ability, as an answer to our prayers. God’s power removes our limitations and brings about great ministries and eternal results. This is a possibility through prayer. Through prayers, possibilities become actualities. We are given the

privilege of prayer to introduce the divine power into our ministry and missions. Prayer brings supernatural power down to our lives. So we can live a great life in Christ. Great things can be accomplished not because of our own feeble abilities, but because of the prayer-answering God Himself.

### THE GREAT SPIRIT

Finally, we can live a great life doing great works in ministry and missions, accomplishing great results, because we have the Great Spirit. The power source is the Holy Spirit Himself. We on our own are limited and fallible. But the Holy Spirit is the Great Spirit, who can do anything Jesus was doing on earth. Now Jesus has gone away to the Father and has sent another Comforter to indwell us permanently to be a *parakletos*—Helper for us. We alone are unable to produce spiritual fruits. “Without me you can do nothing” (John 14:5), meaning that we, who are not spiritual, are not able to bring about spiritual results, because spiritual things are accomplished spiritually through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Great Spirit is “another Comforter (*allos parakletos*),” another of the same kind, not *heteros parakletos*, another of a different kind. Jesus was a *parakletos* incarnated, a localized individual, who so emptied and so limited Himself that He was unable to be at two places at the same time, or speak to John while He was speaking to Peter. So it was expedient for him to go away to the Father and send another *parakletos*, one who is identical in divinity, power, honor, and glory as Jesus, the incarnated Son of God, and yet who is an invisible Spirit with no physical body, who is able to permanently indwell all the believers at the moment of new spiritual birth when they put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. And then the Spirit is always ready to assist them in anything if asked, whenever and whatever help they need in order to do great things for the glory of God and for the benefit of the Church and for this world.

He is the Co-creator of the universe with the Son and the Father. He is the One who founded the church (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:13), is currently present in the church (1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:22), governs the church (Acts 20:28, organization; Acts 4:8-12, proclamation of the Word; Eph 6:18, prayers; Eph 5:18-19, singing with hymns, psalms, spiritual songs), unites the church as one body (Eph 4:3), completes the church (Acts 13:2, selection of missionaries; Acts 13:4, sending; Acts 16:6-7, missions selection; Acts 13:50-52, maintaining the church even

under persecution; Acts 15:28, solving the problems of the missionaries). He indwells the church and carries out all the ministries of the church. Without His presence and empowerment, the church cannot do its spiritual works. He regenerates sinners (John 3:5; Titus 3:5), seals them (Eph 4:30), indwells them (1 Cor 6:19; Rom 8:9), baptizes them (1 Cor 12:13), fills them (Eph 5:18), gives each one spiritual gifts which are needed to edify the church (1 Cor 12:4-11) and spiritual fruits of all kinds (Gal 5:22-23), guides (1 Cor 8:14), teaches (1 John 2:20, 27), sanctifies (1 Pet 1:2; 1 Thess 2:13), bears witness (Rom 8:15; 1 John 5:7), intercedes for the believers (Rom 8:26), resurrects the dead (Rom 8:11), empowers (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Eph 3:20), restrains (Acts 16:6-7; Gen 20:6), helps Christians to be conformed to Christ (1 Cor 3:18; Gal 4:19), rebukes unrighteousness (John 16:10), and convicts the world of the sins (John 16:8-9). No area of ministry can be successfully carried out without the Great Spirit, who came to help the church and its ministries. With Him all things can be done! He is in us ready to help if we call for Him.

The Holy Spirit's ministry can be seen in every segment of the life of Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Spirit through the miraculous conception overpowering Mary, His mother (Luke 1:34-35). The Spirit gifted Him with outstanding wisdom (Isa 11:1-4; John 7:15), authoritative powerful preaching (Luke 4:18, 22, 32; John 7:45-46), powerful ministry (Matt 12:28; Acts 10:38), a victorious life (Luke 4:1-2), a substitutionary death (Heb 9:14), a glorious resurrection (Rom 8:11) and declared Him to be the Son of God (Rom 1:4).

The Holy Spirit came upon the individuals for certain purposes such as political leadership (Num 27:15-23), military leadership (Judg 3:10; 6:34-36), superhuman physical strength (Judg 14:5-6; 15:14-15), artistic skills (Ex 31:4-5), literary and musical expressions (1 Sam 23:1-2), moral and spiritual courage (2 Chr 24:20-22; Acts 4:19), prophetic ministry and inscripturization as well (Num 24:2, 10-13; Ezek 11:5, 24-25; 8:3). What do you need to live a great life and to do successfully great works of ministry, even greater works? Whatever you need, He has it. And He is with you forever and lives in you ready to assist you at any time in anything you seek to do, any great thing for the Lord. The Holy Spirit has everything Christians desire to live a great life and do great ministries for the glory of God and for the edification of the church. In the *Parakletos* of the Spirit is found the fullness of God, just as in Jesus Christ, to make any believer richer toward God and to make



His fullness available through prayers. The world looks for superior qualities in its leaders and follows those who have them, and often churches do likewise in their ministers and missionaries. The case in point is the Corinthian church with its false teachers who challenged Paul and found him lacking in secular qualities and attempted to reject him. However, Paul refused to boast of himself, though he had many things to boast, humanly speaking, if he is pressed to. But he rather boasted in his weaknesses to show that when he was weak, Christ was strong in him (2 Cor 12:9). A man who is highly capable on his own and knows that he is, is very dangerous to the kingdom of God, for he may build his own kingdom for his own glory rather than the kingdom of God for His glory. Many will say to the Lord one day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, have done many miracles in your name?" The Lord will clearly declare, "I have never known you, workers of evil. Depart from me" (Matt 7:22-23). Ministry is not to be done by our own talents, intellect, power and might, but by the Spirit. Ministry does not depend on our academic degrees, fame, position, but upon the power of the Holy Spirit and ceaseless prayers for the intervention of God, and thus our total dependence upon the Lord.

### CONCLUSION

Yes, we believe in Jesus Christ. We are saved. We love Him. We want to do what the Lord has commanded us to do, what He had been doing on earth while on earth, the ministries of teaching, preaching and healing. Now we live longer, travel farther, reaching more people than at the time of Jesus in flesh and in Israel. Longer life, farther distance, more people, more works, and more technology in themselves are insufficient for eternal results, which are possible only through the intervention of the Spirit and through the channel of great prayers. With the Holy Spirit in our ministry and missions, our lives are transformed to be holy, because sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit and we can accomplish great spiritual works. "Not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit" (Zech 4:6). "When the Holy Spirit is come upon you," the Lord said, we shall receive the power from on high to be His witnesses at Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). The power will enable us to reach the end of the world. In the Spirit is found everything and anything you and I need for the great life and for great ministries. Ask and it shall be given. This is

the promise for all of us. Onward Christian soldiers, marching in the name of Jesus and in the power of His Spirit and of great prayers!