

19. Creativity and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

In Genesis 2:19-20, we read, “Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.” In these verses, we see that Adam had tremendous creativity. He was able to see the animals, the birds, and all of the other creatures God had created, and immediately give them a name. That was true for at least two reasons. First, Adam was in perfect fellowship with God. Second, Adam had not sinned.

The next time we see the creativity of Adam, he no longer had perfect fellowship with God, because he had sinned. Genesis 3:7 says, “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.” Here, we see that Adam was using what creativity he had left after he sinned to try to cover his sin. He chose to use fig leaves. Fig leaves dry up very quickly and fall apart. As a result, although Adam was much less creative, he was using his creativity to try to cover his sin.

The same passage shows that Adam tried to use his creativity again. Genesis 3:12 says, “Then the man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.’” Here, we see that Adam used his creativity to blame someone else for his sin. First, he tried to blame Eve: “The **WOMAN** whom You gave to be with me.” Second, he tried to blame God: “The woman **whom YOU gave to be with me.**” Ever since that time, people of the world have used their creativity to do these same two things: try to cover their sin, and blame others for their sin. That was not the plan of God. Instead, the plan of God was to give man great creativity, so man could use that creativity to bring glory to God, as Adam had before he sinned.

Christ did two things to restore that creativity in our lives, when He saved us from sin. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we read, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” When God created Adam, he was without sin. When Christ made us a new creation, he forgave our sin: past, present, and future. Second, Christ put the Holy Spirit in our lives. In Mark 1:8, John the Baptist said, “I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Ephesians 1:13-14 says that the Holy Spirit is the down payment and guarantee of our salvation. Those verses say, “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Adam had great creativity that made it possible for him to see different animals and immediately give them names. As Christians, that creativity has now been restored in our lives. However, there is one basic requirement for us to demonstrate that creativity. We have to yield the control of our lives to the Holy Spirit. This involves three things: know, reckon, and present (yield). Romans 6:6 says, “Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” We are to know that our old

man was crucified with Christ, and that, as a result, we are no longer slaves to sin. As we saw, sin caused Adam to immediately misuse his creativity to cover his sin and begin to blame others.

Romans 6:11 says, “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The word reckon is an accounting term. It means *to put something to an account and then act accordingly*. If someone puts money to your bank account, you can act accordingly by writing checks for that amount and you will not overdraw your bank account. Christ has made us dead to sin. That means sin no longer has control over us. We are to begin to act as a person that is no longer controlled by sin. We can choose to sin, or we can choose to obey God. That brings us to the third word, present.

Romans 6:13 says, “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” Then, Romans 6:16 says, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” We are to stop presenting ourselves as instruments of unrighteousness to sin. Instead, we are to make the choice to present ourselves to God, for obedience, so that we can carry out the righteousness of God. As we present ourselves to God, we are able to act in the power of the Holy Spirit, instead of acting in our own strength.

Ephesians 5:18 says, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” The words “be filled with the Spirit” mean *to continually be filled with the Spirit as a general habit or a life-style*. This is our life-style if we do not allow unconfessed sin in our lives. That is why 1 John 1:9 tells us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:7 says that is what makes it possible for us to walk in the light, as Christ is in the light, because the blood of Jesus Christ is continually cleansing us from sin.

A Christian who understands and continually applies these principles in his or her life will find that the Holy Spirit gives them tremendous creativity. That person will be inspired to serve Christ, because that person has taken root in the love of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 says, “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” Galatians 5:13 tells how that freedom will affect our ministry to other Christians. That verse says, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Here, we see that a Christian will use his or her creativity to serve other Christians.

Acts 4:12-13 shows how Peter and John used this creativity to serve the Jewish religious leaders. “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” Then, the prayer of the early Christians shows how the Lord used this creativity to minister to all who were not Christians. Those verses, found in Acts 4:29-32, say, “Now, Lord,

look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” This creativity allowed the early Christians to boldly share the Word of God with those that were not Christians.

Galatians 5:16 tells us how to walk if we want to experience the creativity of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. That verse says, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:18 adds, “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” We can choose to walk in the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit, instead of having to depend on ourselves. That is what makes it possible for Christians to act with great creativity, because we are able to think and act in the power of the Holy Spirit, instead of thinking and acting in our own wisdom and strength.

Galatians 6:7-10 tells us that we can have good results from our service if we sow to the Spirit. Those verses say, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” These verses show us that the Lord will minister through our lives, because the Lord creates many opportunities for us to serve Him. He will give us opportunities to minister both to Christians, as well as to those who have not yet trusted Christ.

Every Christian can have a great impact for the Lord if they present their life to the Lord, so the Lord can work through their life. We are all able to minister with great creativity as the Holy Spirit works in our lives and through our lives. This is due to the fact that we are allowing the Holy Spirit to demonstrate His creativity through our lives. Many Christians have not yet experienced what the Lord can do through their lives as they present themselves to Him and allow Him to work through their lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you help developing Christians learn to let the Holy Spirit work in their lives and then through their lives.