

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc. [www.dtminc.org](http://www.dtminc.org) Today's Date: February 19, 2023

## There's More: Partnering With The Spirit To Speak Effectively For Jesus

by Dan Trygg

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, <sup>27</sup> and you will testify also...” John 15:26-27

“...don't worry about how or what you should speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, <sup>20</sup> because you are not speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you.” Matthew 10:19-20

“It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. <sup>14</sup> So put in your hearts not to worry beforehand to make a defense; <sup>15</sup> for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to resist or refute.” Luke 21:13-15

“And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31

We have been talking about developing the skills of a disciple, the practiced abilities that come from following Jesus' example and training. **One of the skills that we see highlighted all across the pages of the NT is the ability to speak boldly and clearly about Jesus.** Again, we don't necessarily start out with these skills, naturally. We are to see ourselves as apprentices in training. **The capacity to speak under the influence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit is an ability that belongs to us all, in Christ. It is part of our inheritance in Christ.** The Holy Spirit has been given to us for this purpose. This is one key aspect of His ministry of helping us. According to Jesus' words in John 15, “He will testify about Me, and you will testify also.” ***The Spirit is given to enable us to speak for Jesus.***

When He came along the seashore in Matthew 4:19, **Jesus told the Galilean fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** Later, when He chose them to be apostles, **they were sent out to preach**, and demonstrate the power of the kingdom of God (Mk. 3:14-15). Later, He commissioned 70 others to also go out and proclaim the good news (Lk. 10). After His resurrection, **Jesus told His followers that the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed to all the nations in His name** (Lk. 24:47). **He told them to wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit** (vs. 49). When the Holy Spirit would come upon them, they were to “take” it! **The enabling working of the Spirit within them would make them effective witnesses.** Again, the vision of Jesus was that His followers would bring this message to the “uttermost parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8). As the church spread out, due to persecution in Jerusalem, **the proclamation and sharing of the good news was not limited to the apostles, or the so-called “preachers”.** **It was shared by the witness and testimony of everyday believers,** as they interacted with the people they met along the way, or as they got established in new neighborhoods. They had learned to speak of their faith, as they interacted in small home churches in Jerusalem. **This was a skill that was fostered and developed through the interactive community of the church, as they ministered to one another.** Having learned to pay attention to what God was prompting inside of them, and to respond to that leading, **they had experienced the expression of the Holy Spirit through their partnership with Him,** using their gifts in the body.

**Unquestionably, this is a partnership, a cooperative venture. We are meant to work together. The Spirit will work through us, ...and we will speak out what He gives us to say.** He will bring about an opportunity for us to speak, and we are to step into that opportunity. Remember, Ephesians 2:10? “We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He has prepared beforehand that we might walk in them.” Luke 21:15 says that “This will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.” In Colossians 4:3 tells us to pray that God might “open up for us a door for the word.” Paul alluded to this phenomenon on two occasions in his letters to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12). **God will set up the opportunity. What is faith? Faith is expecting God to act as we step out in obedience to His leading and working.** Jesus was always on the lookout for what God was initiating (Jn. 5:19). When He recognized that His Father was setting things up, He joined with what He could see was of God's doing. We are to do the same. **As we see that God is setting up an opportunity to share, we are to ask the Spirit to enable us to speak with boldness and clarity, ...and then start the conversation.** We will start to speak for Jesus and the Spirit will give us the wisdom and confidence that we need to speak what needs to be said.

**In Matthew 10, Jesus told us not to worry about what we will say, when we are given an opportunity to speak of Him. Why did He say that? Because the tendency is for us to try to figure that out on our own!** Instead, Jesus encouraged us to trust that the Holy Spirit will give us what to say and speak at such a time. Instead of focusing on what we might be going to say, we should be centering our hearts on God, asking for His leading and His help. **Who is our Helper? The Holy Spirit. What will He help us with? He will help us remember what Jesus said, and He will enable us to speak with clarity and boldness because He Himself will be testifying through us as we are speaking.**

**I don't know if you have experienced this yet, or not, but I can vividly remember the first time this happened with me.** I was a fairly new, untrained believer, and I was put in the situation where I had to share with a man who was not a Christian. He was also intoxicated. I had actually been with another more experienced believer, but he suddenly left. I didn't know it, but he saw the need to pray for this man, because he was not able to follow what we were trying to share with him. The man who had been somewhat argumentative and evasive was suddenly very serious and clear-minded, and **I was saying things that I was amazed were coming from my mouth.** I didn't really *know* the things that I was saying, ...but I recognized that much of it was from the Bible. **I literally thought, "Where is this coming from?" I certainly could not have constructed an argument or presentation like that on my own. Later on, I understood that it was from the Holy Spirit.** (By the way, the same thing was asked about Jesus, when He spoke at the synagogue at His hometown, after the Spirit came upon Him. The people, who had known Him all His life, were amazed at what they were hearing. They said of Him, "Where did this man *get* this wisdom?... Where did He *get* all these things?" [Matt. 13:54,56]) A very similar thing happens when I preach or teach. Often the Spirit will put thoughts together that I had never fully understood. I often think, "Where is this coming from?" But now I know that it is from the Holy Spirit. **Through many, many such experiences I have developed a confidence that God will give me what needs to be said, at the time it needs to be spoken. I have learned to ask for His help, and to expect Him to empower me. ...and He does!**

In **Ephesians 6:18-20**, the apostle Paul tells us, "By means of all prayer and entreaty, praying in every opportunity in the Spirit, and unto this, ...being on the lookout in all perseverance and prayer for all the saints, in order that a word or message might be given in the opening of our mouths to make known with confidence/boldness the mystery of the gospel, ...in order that we might speak it boldly/freely/confidently as it is necessary to speak." Note how **this passage emphasizes three important ideas for us, and four important ideas for the Spirit.** There is to be: **(1.) an investment of much prayer**, prayer that is insistent, persevering, and which extends to others. **(2.) There is to be watchfulness** for the opportunity and working of God. **And, (3.) we are responsible to "open our mouths"** to speak when God brings things together. **On God's side, (1.) the Spirit will work along with us in prayer** and intercession. **(2.) He will create the opportunities** in which we would be able to speak out for Him. **(3.) He will give us what we are to say** in those times, ...a word or a message to speak. **And, (4.) He will give us the boldness, confidence or freedom-in-speaking** that we need to effectively deliver the message. **Note the interactive partnership. We have a necessary and important part to play.** If we don't do our part, nothing will happen. **The Holy Spirit also must be involved.** If He is not involved, our efforts will only be what we can muster and produce on our own. We will not have the freedom in speaking, the inspired content to share, or the anointing of power to affect the person with whom we attempt to speak. **No wonder there is such an emphasis on prayer. This prayer signifies the "want to" of our desire and intention to look for and respond to the Holy Spirit in the opportunities He initiates. Without this "want to" we will not be ready partners for the Holy Spirit.**

In **Colossians 4:2-4**, Paul wrote, "Devote yourselves to (continue unremittingly in) the prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving, praying together, ...in order that God might open a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, in order that we might make it clear (or, visible, manifest), as it is necessary to speak." **Note again the ingredients of (1.) much, unremitting prayer; (2.) watchfulness for God to work; (3.) God creating an opportunity or "door for the word"; and, (4.) the partnership of God and us as we "make it clear or visible".** We are the medium through which God expresses Himself, or makes Himself visible. We must be willing partners with Him, in order for that to happen.

**Okay, so here is the challenge. Do you want what God has for you? Do you want to experience the leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and become an effective witness for Jesus Christ?** This is one of the key discipleship skills that is highlighted in the NT, yet many of us shrink back from it, because it is uncomfortable, or we feel awkward. **Again, this is a skill. It is a partnership skill. It is something that you can do in cooperation with God.** The Lord wants you to develop this skill. It is part of your toolkit for the kingdom. **Are you willing to be stretched, to grow, to experience more of the working of God in your life? The only reason that you are afraid or you are holding back is because you feel inadequate, or it seems uncomfortable.** Let me tell you, *when you are working with God, there is nothing more exciting!* **When you experience God working through you, ...it is nothing short of amazing, invigorating and exciting! But, because it is a partnership, you have to do your part. Your part is to begin to pray about this.** Ask God to prepare *you* and to prepare *the opportunity* He wants to bring to you. **Then, when you see the opportunity, send up a brief prayer for God's help, and start the conversation.** It may start a little bumpy, at first, but if you are interested in that person, and ask about him or her, ...or if you take your cue from where you see God at work and start your conversation around that insight, you will experience the Spirit begin to work in you, and in that other person. **Even if he or she does not respond, you will see God at work, and you will have gotten past a hurdle of fear, and will have begun to sharpen your skill. You will be on your way to being a fisher of men.**