

CHAPTER 20

Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reference

“But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory” (2 Cor 3:7-9).

Definition

Diakonia – attendance as a servant, aid, official service especially of the Christian teacher, minister, office, relief, service.

Commentary

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is His service to us as He executes the will of God. The Holy Spirit is the foundation of all our understanding of God and our Lord Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Without the ministry or work in service, if you will, of the Spirit, our lives would be dead. It's the Holy Spirit who made us alive in Christ, as we have previously studied. The ministry of the Spirit is alive and well and never-ending. Every church of the Lord's is full of the ministry of the Spirit. It's

the Spirit that speaks to us through the preacher, pastor, minister, or other believers. It's the Spirit's ministry if you stop and look at what is happening in the supernatural. How often have you heard a preacher ask God before he speaks for the Lord to speak through him? Often I've heard this very request and seen the proof firsthand as a human takes on the personality of God through the Spirit.

I've experienced this very concept myself when I'm in a prison, a hospital, a recovery center, or a church. The Spirit's ministry takes over what I'm doing and highjacks my plans for the service. It's His ministry, not my own. Then, on the other hand, I've been in services where the complete opposite has happened, where a church is dead in the Spirit. They have no life at all. The congregation is not full of life and is stale and nothing more than a religious gathering. You may have experienced the same thing and may have even made comments that it was a dead experience, and you couldn't feel the Lord's presence there at all. That is because the believers have quenched the Spirit to the point of Him being nearly absent. I've seen this happen, and many of these churches die the slow death as they dwindle away because they refuse to allow the ministry of the Spirit to prevail. It makes me sad to watch this happen because it could be so easy to just submit to the Spirit's ministry instead of doing the work themselves. How many of you know that if God's hand is in it, it will flourish with favor from the Lord. But if His hand is not in it, it is doomed to fail, and the Spirit will not be able to minister where He is not allowed to flourish.

We are not orphans; rather, the Spirit ministers to us as our own personal pastor and teacher. His work of service does not only take place in the church on Sunday but in our lives daily if

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