

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

Turn to Acts 1

How did the gospel of the kingdom of God start? Where did it come from or who started it?

Acts 1:1

- 1** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,
- 2** until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
- 3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Turn to Luke 4

During his ministry to the children of Israel, Jesus initiated the gospel of the kingdom of God. He brought it forth and began to proclaim and teach it.

Mark 1:14 reports:

- 14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,
- 15** and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

What gospel? It was the gospel of the kingdom of God, also known as the gospel of God. Now let's examine in Luke 4 how Jesus proclaimed this gospel of the kingdom of God.

Luke 4:31

- 31** And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, **32** and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

Here Jesus is teaching in a synagogue in Capernaum of Galilee. What follows is the effect, the impact of his teaching with words which had authority. This is how he went about proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Luke 4:33

- 33** And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean ~~demon~~ (*devil*), and he cried out with a loud voice, **34** "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." **35** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the ~~demon~~ (*devil*) had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. **36** And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" **37** And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

- 38** And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. **39** And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

In verse 35, Jesus rebuked the unclean devil and commanded it to come out of the man. It immediately left the man. In verse 38, there was no devil to rebuke; the problem was a high fever. So, Jesus rebuked the fever. She was immediately delivered and strengthened.

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

Luke 4:40

40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.

41 And ~~demons~~ (*devils*) also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, **43** but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." **44** And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Jesus accomplished his purpose as he walked by the spirit. He knew where to speak and what to speak as he walked by the spirit. Therefore he spoke words which had authority, words which brought great deliverance to people. He did not move by guesswork. He did not hire a public relations firm or a marketing consultant to help him figure out how to promote this gospel. He walked by the holy spirit which was upon him.

In John 6:63 Jesus declares:

63 It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Turn to Luke 9

The flesh, meaning the physical resources, physical abilities, physical authority is of no help when it comes to giving an abundance of life. Giving life is what Jesus was doing when he brought deliverance by way of his preaching and teaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. Jesus was able to do these works by way of the holy spirit which was upon him. It was holy spirit which gave him the words of God, words of authority which he would impart with spiritual believing.

In Luke 9, Jesus delegates authority to the apostles.

Luke 9:1

1 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all ~~demons~~ (*devils*) and to cure diseases,

Next Jesus teaches them the specific wisdom of how they are to carry out this authority. These are the words of wisdom which he received by revelation to impart to the apostles.

Luke 9:2

2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. **3** And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. **4** And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. **5** And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." **6** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

What gospel? The gospel of the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:10

10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. **11** When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

had need of healing.

After the apostles returned, Jesus continued to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God with authority. Note that this authority was not for controlling people or for bossing them around. It was there to heal and deliver people. This is the authority to serve and love effectively. The apostles were built up, strengthened, and given the tools needed to carry out God's will. They were not restrained by a hierarchy of organizational leadership who had to approve every move they made. They were given wisdom, spiritual wisdom of how to best use the authority granted them. Then Jesus turned them loose to walk by the spirit and carry out God's will as God worked in them. The apostles were to walk by the spirit just as Jesus was doing.

Luke 9:57

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." **58** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." **59** To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." **60** And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead (town) to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." **61** Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." **62** Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

By this time it should be clear that the directive to "...go and proclaim the kingdom of God..." is not a directive to just talk. It is an invitation to serve with great authority and power, to impart life giving deliverance to people from the loving heart of God. Jesus would impart this authority and power to those who were willing to serve.

The courses of this world will provide a multitude of excuses why it's just not possible for YOU to serve right now. The calling to serve is persistent and will accept no excuses.

Luke 10:1

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. **2** And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. **3** Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. **4** Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. **5** Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' **6** And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. **7** And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. **8** Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. **9** Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' **10** But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, **11** 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' **12** I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day (*the future Day of the Lord*) for Sodom than for that town.

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

Jesus gives authority to 72 others to declare the gospel of the kingdom of God and impart life giving deliverance to people wherever they went. His instructions were spiritual words of wisdom given to Jesus to impart to the 72 by spiritual believing. The 72 carried out their instructions as they walked by the spirit, serving with the authority imparted to them by Jesus. They report the results of their service in verse 17

Luke 10:17

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the **demons** (*devils*) are subject to us in your name!” **18** And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. **20** Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

The 12 and the 72 were so effective in their service that Satan himself had to intervene in order to keep the devil spirit realm together and functioning. His kingdom was falling apart. This is the impact of the gospel of the kingdom of God.

It is at this point that Jesus begins to receive hostile pressure against him and his service. He begins to be the subject of persecution.

Luke 11:14

14 Now he was casting out a **demon** (*devil*) that was mute. When the **demon** (*devil*) had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. **15** But some of them said, “He casts out **demons** (*devils*) by Beelzebul, the prince of **demons** (*devils*),” **16** while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.

Here is an interesting accusation. Jesus was accused of being an exorcist. An exorcist is one who exercises devil spirit power to produce counterfeit signs, miracles and wonders. These counterfeit works are not done for free, either. They are paid very well.

This accusation is saying that Jesus is not doing anything special, he is working with devil spirit power, and he is doing it for the money; somehow he is getting paid. The implication is that Jesus is a deceiver of the first order, that all his preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God is a sham, a lie, a cover of darkness for his hidden agenda, which was money. This was the accusation against him.

Well, this is a clever technique of the devil spirit realm called “projection”. The spirits accuse the believer of the very deeds the accuser is guilty of practicing. They endeavor to get the attention off of the accuser and direct it to the accused. Additionally, they get the accused to consider and accept the logic, the concepts, even the vocabulary of the accusation. In this manner, the accusers begin to direct the conversation away from the words of God to the words of the devil.

So, how did Jesus handle these outrageous accusations?

Luke 11:17

17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. **18** And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out **demons** (*devils*) by Beelzebul.

How did Jesus know their thoughts and their intents? By way of the holy spirit upon him. Jesus puts the spotlight of attention right back on Satan and his working; he begins to expose the accusers.

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

Jesus was bringing GENUINE deliverance to people. When they were delivered, they stayed delivered. This is not what happens when the counterfeit exorcists do their work. So, if Jesus is bringing GENUINE deliverance by the power of ruling devil spirits, then the kingdom of Satan is truly divided and it will fall. However, this is NOT what is happening.

Luke 11:19

19 And if I cast out ~~demons~~ (*devils*) by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.

Jesus exposes their accusation and projection. He knew who he was dealing with. Their sons were exorcists who learned their trade from their fathers. In effect he unveiled these men as being the exorcists who were working with Beelzebul, not Jesus. The ruling spirit and the deceiving spirits were exposed for all to see.

Luke 11:20

20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out ~~demons~~ (*devils*), then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

To wrap it all up, Jesus brings the conversation back to the subject at hand, the gospel of the kingdom of God. He did not allow the devil spirits to get him off track. He exposed them and brought the peoples attention back to God, His words and His power.

Turn to Luke 21

Jesus continued to serve and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God despite all the opposition of the devil spirit realm which was working through the religious and political people of that day. He taught his disciples about future events and the coming of the kingdom of God.

Luke 21:5

5 And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, **6** “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” **7** And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” **8** And he said, “See that you are not led astray. **For many will come in my name**, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ (*What time? The time for the kingdom of God, specifically the Day of the Lord*) Do not go after them. **9** And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.” (*the end will not come immediately*).

Jesus is prophesying about the near future. The prophecy in verse 6 takes place approximately 40 years later. The prophecy in verse 8 takes place during the life time of those he is speaking to.

Luke 21:10

10 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **11** There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. **12** But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors **for my name's sake**. **13** This will be your opportunity

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

to bear witness.

Luke 21:14

14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, **15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom**, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. **16** You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death.

17 You will be hated by all **for my name's sake**. **18** But not a hair of your head will perish.

19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

The prophecies of verses 12 through 19 take place during the lifetimes of those in his audience. Note that Jesus is speaking the words which God is giving him to speak. These are prophecies concerning himself IF Jesus follows through with his crucifixion. IF Jesus chooses NOT to go through with the crucifixion, then these prophecies in verses 12 through 19 will be false and he would prove to be a false prophet. Under the law, false prophets were to be put to death. How would you like to have his job? Jesus could have refrained from speaking and withheld these prophecies.

Luke 21:20

20 “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. **21** Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, **22** for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. **23** Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. **24** They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

As it turned out, the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in verses 20 and 21 takes place in about 70AD, which is about 40 years after this prophecy is spoken. Jerusalem continues to be trodden down by the Gentiles until sometime in the future, after we are gathered together with Christ, to meet him in the clouds.

Now his prophecy continues, referring to events after the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Luke 21:25

25 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, **26** people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory (*this is the beginning of the great Day of the Lord, when we return with him to the earth*). **28** Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. **30** As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. **31** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. **32** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

The term “this generation” refers to the generation that rejects the messiah. Turn to John 12

Well, Jesus continued to preach, teach and serve according as God led him. Those of the world, the chief priests, the religious rulers and the devil spirits worked diligently, seeking how they could murder him.

As the hour of Jesus's arrest and torture approached, he said:

John 12:27

27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” **29** The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” **30** Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. **31** Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. **32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

Turn to Galatians 3

Jesus continues to boldly prophesy about himself, despite being troubled by the terrible events that lay before him. He knew his purpose and what he was called to do. Remember, he could choose not to go through the torture and crucifixion. While he was being arrested he said in

Matthew 26:53

“**53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

Jesus initiated and promoted the gospel of the kingdom of God. He moved with great power and authority to bring to pass the will of God. Jesus chose to lay down his life for us, as it says in Hebrews 12:2

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter (*or finisher*) of ~~our~~ faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Galatians 3:13 says

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— **14** so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive (*manifest*) the promised Spirit through faith.

Turn to Acts 1

After having read all these accounts in Luke, it would be an attractive proposition to pattern our service in our day and time after the examples we have just read. However, Jesus was a minister to Israel, not the to the Gentiles. In Matthew 15:24 Jesus himself says “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”.

Since the times recorded in the gospels, several momentous events have occurred. These events are the ascension of Jesus Christ, the day of Pentecost when it became available for people to be born from above and manifest holy spirit, then the revelation of the great mystery was given to the apostle Paul. Jesus Christ lived and ministered under the law of Moses. He fulfilled this law and then abolished it.

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

The day of Pentecost marks a transition from the law of Moses to a time when God's grace rules through righteousness as it says in Romans 5:21.

So, we will look to the book of Acts and the church epistles to determine if there are any similarities in how Jesus Christ promoted the gospel of the kingdom of God and how the believers promoted this gospel.

After his resurrection, Jesus met with the apostles and continued to instruct them. What do you suppose he taught them about?

Acts 1:3

3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while ~~staying~~ (*eating, taking the covenant of salt*) with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8 But you will receive (*manifest*) power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Jesus continued to teach about the kingdom of God after his resurrection. The responsibility to function as a believer in the kingdom of God still requires power from on high by way of holy spirit.

Note that these apostles all had holy spirit upon them from the time when Jesus had delegated power and authority to them when they were sent out. However, this delegation of power and authority was not a baptism of the holy spirit. This promise of the Father, the baptism of holy spirit, the manifestation of power, is something new, something greater, something that had not been available before the accomplishments of Jesus Christ and his ascension.

In verse 8 the apostles are informed that they are to be Jesus Christ's witnesses throughout all the earth. This was not a job that they were ever given in the gospels.

In Acts 2, the baptism of the holy spirit is given forth to mankind. The 12 apostles are the first to manifest power from on high; the evidence is that THEY (not the holy spirit) all spoke in tongues. Those who were present reported that they heard the apostles speaking the mighty works of God. The crowd wanted to know what all this meant, so the apostle Peter stood up and told them.

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

Acts 2:22

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Peter continues to magnify God by speaking of His mighty works. This is the gospel of the kingdom of God. The central figure of this kingdom continues to be Jesus Christ, His son.

Acts 2:29

29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

(See? HERE is the baptism that God poured out! It's holy spirit, NOT WATER!)

God worked with David, the prophet and king, who prophesied of the coming messiah. God raised up Jesus from the dead, ascended him and seated him at God's right hand. These are more of the mighty works of God.

Acts 2:34

34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“‘The Lord (*God*) said to my Lord (*the messiah*), Sit at my right hand, **35** until I make your enemies your footstool.’

This simple prophecy made so many centuries ago covers the time from the ascension of Jesus Christ through the Day of the Lord which is still future. These two events were well known. However there was a gap of knowledge. No one knew then, or now, how much time there is between the ascension and the Day of the Lord. These are the days in which we live, right now. It is in these days that the knowledge of the great mystery is available, when the grace of God rules through righteousness.

Acts 2:36

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” **37** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive (*manifest*) the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

When Jesus was ministering to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, there was no promise of the Father,

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

there was no gift of holy spirit which was available to everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself. The magnitude of the gospel of the kingdom of God has increased because of the mighty working of God through the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. Turn to Ephesians 1

By revelation, Paul proclaims the mighty works which God has done for us. These works were being done before the world began in anticipation of the accomplishments of His son Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Turn to Colossians 1

As you read further in Ephesians you will find more details of what God has done for the believers. You will find that we are created in Christ Jesus, we are in union with him. We are no longer identified by our flesh, we are identified with Christ. He initiated the gospel of the kingdom of God. As a result of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ, we too have been given great power, abilities and authority.

Colossians 1:24

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, **25** of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, **26** the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. **27** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

This is the significance of the great mystery which became available because of the mighty power of God working through the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. It is NOW CHRIST IN YOU and in ME. It is CHRIST IN EACH AND EVERY BELIEVER WHO IS BORN FROM ABOVE.

Paul performs his service in the body of Christ, within the kingdom of God by "...all HIS energy that he

Walking by the spirit: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Part 2

powerfully works within me...”.

In this time of the kingdom of God, we have been called, we have been made whole, we have been given power from on high so that we too can bring to pass the will of God in our lives and in the lives of others. We too can speak words of authority, words of spiritual life, words inspired of God which bring deliverance to those who hear.

In 1 Corinthians 4:20 Paul states:

20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in (*proud or arrogant*) talk but in power.

People in the world can spend a lifetime just talking. God has invited us, He called us before the ages began, to serve with great authority and power, to impart life giving deliverance to people from the loving heart of God. We can do this, as we toil with all HIS energy that he works powerfully in each one of us.