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## **Episode 67-Unveiling the Spirit: Exploring the Depth of the Cross**

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Join Scott Stanley from DTG Ministries as he delves into the profound teachings of the book of Revelation, exploring the deep understandings concerning the Holy Spirit. This episode examines how the Spirit guides us beyond mere scriptural comprehension to embody God's essence.

Scott reflects on 2 Corinthians 3, revealing Paul's insights on being ministers of the Spirit, and elucidates the meaning of the cross as a mirror reflecting ourselves and God's unwavering patience. Discover how the narrative of Christ on the cross symbolizes our struggles with guilt, forgiveness, and the transformative power of love and grace.

The podcast further explores the symbolic representation of Jerusalem and its significance in the spiritual battle against iniquity and the forthcoming victory of the Spirit-guided church. Understand the importance of beholding the cross to transform into the image of Jesus Christ, and how this understanding underpins the ultimate redemption of humanity.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are directly transcribed with notations. See the KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi. This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, continuing our podcast on the book of Revelation as we search the Deep Things of God. For some time, there has been an increase in our understanding concerning the Holy Spirit, and it has been such a blessing to me. I know, I for one, have been praying that the Lord would give me his spirit without measure, as I read in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, to have the Spirit of God without measure (Jhn 3:34).

I know that is not just simply having a deep understanding of verses and words, but it's possessing his spirit... and I guess you could say the attitude and the understanding you would have of people. I know I, for one, need to grow in that, and the Lord has been blessing me there. I want to read to you from 2 Corinthians, chapter 3. This chapter has become one of the most powerful chapters in the Bible for me because in this chapter, we see Paul stating that he is a minister of the Spirit. If you look at verse 6,

2Co 3:6 Who's made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit. The letter will kill, but the spirit gives life.

So, he is talking about ministering the spirit. Again, in verse 8,

2Co 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

We see this ministering of the spirit as a teaching of the spirit. I have realized how the Holy Spirit is the understanding that God has of humanity, portrayed by Christ on the cross: What he showed on that cross where it says that he became sin, *"He who knew no sin became sin,"* 2Co 5:21, or Rom 8:3, *"He was in the similitude of sinful flesh."*

He was a picture of, and I've just been saying, the soul of humanity because all of humanity is full of guilt and stripes, unforgiveness, and sin. What is sin? What you have done to others and what they have done to you- that really just simplifies it. What you have done to others will create guilt. What people have done to you can create stripes on your back, the result of not being able to forgive someone because of your anger and bitterness, and so on.

So, to minister the spirit is to teach somebody the meaning of the cross. All I had ever heard about the cross was that Jesus died to pay my sin debt. So, understanding that God is love, and love doesn't make a record, why did Jesus die? Titus 2:14 says, *"He died to redeem us from all iniquity."* What you see on the cross is the result of iniquity, the thought you have before you sin. If you can't control those thoughts, you will do something that creates guilt, and people will do things to you, creating anger and bitterness; and you will hang on to it in your thinking because of iniquity, twisted thinking. So, if we're going to minister the spirit, we're going to teach somebody the meaning of the cross. What they do with that understanding is up to them.

In this chapter, Paul makes a couple of statements that I want to key on. For instance, 2 Corinthians 3:17.

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit...

I've tried to explain before that because Christ portrayed the iniquity of man on the cross:

1-What iniquity does to us: He did that by wearing a crown of thorns and having stripes on his back, the nakedness, and the darkness.

2-How he found death to self: He said, *"Why have you forsaken me? I feel forsaken, but I'm still thirsting for your understanding. I'm thirsting for truth. And it's finished as far as me trying to do this myself. Into your hands, I commend my spirit."*

That, to me, is the ultimate sinner's prayer- realizing that as you recognize your own iniquity. That prayer will help you find death to self, as we understand Christ is portraying us. Well, that makes the next verse even more powerful. Verse 18.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord...

Well, that word "glass" is "mirror." What he is saying is, you look at the cross. You look at Jesus, beaten and bleeding, dying on the cross, and you realize you're looking into a mirror. That mirror reflection is you. You see yourself.

2Co 3:18 But we, with an open face... we're not covering our face like Moses did, so the children of Israel couldn't behold the glory.

We don't have a covered face. We have an open face. In other words, we're going to look at this cross and see it the way it actually is. We're going to be looking into a mirror, and we're not going to run from it.

2Co 3:18 We, with an open face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord...

Now, what do you mean, you're looking at the cross and you're seeing the glory of the Lord? I want to read to you from Exodus 34. In Exodus 34, let me just read Exodus 33:18.

Exo 33:18 And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory.

Moses was speaking to the Christ, but he wasn't the Christ. He was speaking to the God of Israel. *"I beseech thee, show me thy glory."* So, chapter 34, verse 5,

Exo 34:5 Jehovah descended in a cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of Jehovah. (He was asking to see the glory. Well, he proclaimed the name, the character.)

Exo 34:6 And Jehovah passed by before him, and proclaimed, Jehovah, Jehovah God. (Here is his glory) He is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth.

Exo 34:7 He will keep mercy for thousands, lifting up the iniquity, the rebellion, and sin that they have. He will by no means acquit those who are guilty.

When he is lifting up iniquity, rebellion, and sin, we see that happening in Psalm 32 because they are coming to him and confessing their sin and iniquity, and he will lift that up for them. But he does that through the cross. He will lift up your iniquity, rebellion, and sin. Now this is the glory: Merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth. If I bring this back to 2 Corinthians 3:18,

2Co 3:18 But we all, with an open face, are looking into a mirror (as we look at that cross, as we look at Christ who is now the Spirit), we behold with open face looking into a mirror, and we see the glory.

What do you mean? As I look in that mirror and I remember all of the things I did that created my guilt, all of the things I couldn't forgive, and how I acted toward others... when I look in that mirror, I see how God, through my life, had longsuffering and patience with me. I see God's goodness. I see, as I look at my soul full of guilt, stripes, nakedness, and my darkness... well, I'm beholding the glory of God because that is me. But he never quit on me. He never gave up on me. He always worked on my behalf. As I see myself in a mirror, I behold the glory of God in that he always helped me. He was always there to work with me. So, as I'm doing this, I'll read this verse again.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with an open face beholding as in a mirror, we see the glory of the Lord, and it changes us into that same image from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord.

Beholding that cross and recognizing God's character changes me into the same image. Remember, we are to be made into the image of the only begotten Son. But how do you do that? You behold the cross and see the glory of God. You behold the cross, and you look at that mirror. You're looking into that mirror, and you're realizing the patience God has had with you, the long-suffering God has had with you. You're seeing the goodness, the mercy that God has shown because you're looking at the soul that was dead. You're looking at a dead person as you look at that cross, but you see the love, care, goodness, and mercy of God. As beholding that, you will become changed.

Remember, on the sixth day of creation, Genesis 1:26, "*Let us make man in our image.*" See, by that time, by the time man enters into the sixth day of understanding, they have a risen Savior who is High Priest, who is the Spirit, and God can say, "*Let us make man now in our image.*" If you can believe that God is love, he never made a record, he's always reaching for you to forgive and help you- if you can believe that... Let's just read this in Acts 2:38.

Act 2:38 Peter said, Repent, be immersed in the name of Jesus for the remission, for deliverance of sin. In that baptism, you'll receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Can you believe that God is for you, God wants to help you, and then repent? You don't continue in sin. You repent, and you're taught about God. You're taught about the cross, receiving that Holy Spirit. Then you live your life looking into that mirror, remembering God's loving kindness, remembering God's patience, remembering that God is for you, and you see his glory as you look at yourself. That is the key to changing you into the image of Jesus Christ. That is the key to being made in the image of God. The more you can look at yourself and behold the glory, the quicker you will be changed... again, to be made in the image of Jesus Christ. So now remember, in Isaiah 65, verse 17,

Isa 65:17 Behold, I create a new heaven and a new earth...

Isa 65:18 ... Behold, I create Jerusalem ...

Revelation 21 verse 1.

Rev 21:1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And there was a great voice saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

New Jerusalem is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 4:26, when Paul is talking about New Jerusalem, he says, "*Jerusalem above is the mother of us all,*" because it is the understanding of God. Isaiah 54:5, speaking about New Jerusalem: "*Your husband is your Maker, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.*" The Holy Spirit truth had to be redeemed because it was given to the apostles and lost because of the man of sin. And it needed to be redeemed for the last generation church. Those truths needed to be corrected.

Now I want to share something with you in Zechariah, chapter 14, verse 1.

Zec 14:1 Behold, the day of Jehovah is coming, and your spoil shall be divided in the midst of you.

Zec 14:2 I will gather all nations against Jerusalem. (This is New Jerusalem. It is the understanding of what happened on the cross. The Son of God portrayed the soul of humanity.) All nations are going to come against Jerusalem to battle. (That city, that understanding will be taken.) The houses that it is in, the minds are going to be plundered. (That emotional side- that word "ravished," literally, is "rape.") The women are ravished, and half of that city will go into captivity. The remnant of the people will not be cut off from the city.

So, if I look at half the city going into captivity, that captivity is iniquity. What is going to happen here? Half of the city will go into iniquity. They are going to give up. They are going to give in, but the remnant of the people will not be cut off.

Zec 14:3 Then shall Jehovah go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. Zec 14:4 And you see him standing on the Mount of Olives...

The Mount of Olives is simply the doctrine that you see happen in Gethsemane. If you look at Jesus at Gethsemane saying, "*Not my will, but yours,*" you see a type of that as he is portraying us on the cross, where you finally say, "Into your hands, I commit my spirit." See, "*Not my will, but yours be done.*" It's the same thing. This doctrine of understanding the cross is going to be a major problem with the universal church.

As he stands on that doctrine, half of the mountain will move to the north and half to the south (Zec 14:4). That word "south" is "dry, a dry desert." "North" is "the north star where you watch; you look for guidance." When you learn the doctrine of the cross, the Holy Spirit, you are going to make a decision that will either leave you dry and desolate or it will leave you searching for direction to overcome sin in your life. Now, if you'll turn with me to Luke 21, I want to start at verse 19.

Luk 21:19 In your patience possess ye your soul.

Luk 21:20 When you see Jerusalem compassed with armies... (He does not mean that literal city. He is talking about Zechariah 14, which we just read.) When you see that doctrine, that truth, compassed by the nations, encircled by armies, then know the desolation of that city is nigh.

Luk 21:21 Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains. (Judea is a symbol, a type of Zion, Psalms 78:68.) Let them in the church, the last generation church... when that doctrine is attacked, when that city is plundered, if you're in the church, flee to the mountains. (Mountains are doctrines. Flee to the doctrines that support what it is you're believing.) Let them which are in the midst of that city leave it.

What does he mean in the midst? I want to read a verse: Matthew 10:16.

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

You're in the midst, but you're not one of them. I'm sending you forth as sheep in the midst. What did he just say?

Luk 21:21 Let those in the church flee to the doctrines. Let those who are in the midst of the church leave, and let not them that are in the countries, or the nations, enter into the church.

This is a heavy truth here. Let me read it one more time. Verse 20.

Luk 21:20 When you see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation of it is nigh.

Luk 21:21 Those people who are in Judea (Psalm 78:68), let them flee to the mountains, to the doctrines that support the truth. Let those who are in the midst of the church, but are not really a part of it, let them leave.

When this amount of pressure is put on what you believe, to have it attacked, plundered, and ravished, some people will not withstand that because they don't understand how we got here in the first place.

Luk 21:21 Let them depart, and these people in the nations around, you don't let them come into the church.

Luk 21:22 For these are the days of man's vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Luk 21:23 Woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people, the church.

Luk 21:24 They shall fall, who? The church. They shall fall by the edge of the sword. They'll be led away captive into all the nations, into iniquity: and Jerusalem, the truth of the cross, shall be trodden down by the nations, until the times of the nations are fulfilled.

There is the giving of the message, the rejection of the truth, and what they are going to do to it. In verse 25,

Luk 21:25 There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars...

Those signs are mentioned in Matthew 24, where the sun, the moon, and the stars will not give their light anymore to the nations, meaning they will have absolutely no truth. They have rejected the gospel through the trumpets.

Luk 21:25 There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. (Put that inward.)

Luk 21:26 Men's hearts will fail them for fear, for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: because the abilities of heavenly truth will be shaken.

Luk 21:27 And they will see the Son of man in the church, with power and great glory.

Luk 21:28 When this happens, lift up your head; because your redemption is drawing nigh.

It is at that point that he will send his church to the Jew. It is at that point you will see Revelation begin to take place in the two witnesses... the people who have endured this attack on their understanding and belief, the people who are grasping and holding for the truth. You're going to see a division here in that people will be rejecting the truth, making an image to the beast. The church will be plundered and ravaged, but for those who endure, you will see them coming in the clouds. They will see Jesus in you, coming with power and great glory.

What we're talking about really, is the crux of what happens at the end of the world before God sends his church to the Jew, before you see Isaiah 59:20, 21, the Redeemer will roar (Jol 3:16); he will come out of Zion and go to Jacob, as Paul discusses in Romans

11. Before that happens, Jerusalem is going to be encompassed by armies. Before that happens, many who are in the church will leave because of the persecution. Those who stay will be a revelation of the Son of man in power and great glory.

Remember glory. Remember, beholding Christ on that cross. You look in a mirror, and you behold the glory of God. You see, *"My grace is sufficient for you"* (2Co 12:9). I have a problem here, Lord, can you remove it? Well, the way I treated you is sufficient for you to treat them. My glory is sufficient. You will behold him on the cross. You will remember how he has dealt with you, and it will change you into the image of Jesus Christ.

That is the power verse I've been looking for my whole Christian life, and was never able to understand. By beholding, we become changed.

Most gracious Heavenly Father, may you put an importance, a heaviness, a weight to these concepts that cause us to seek you and cling to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.