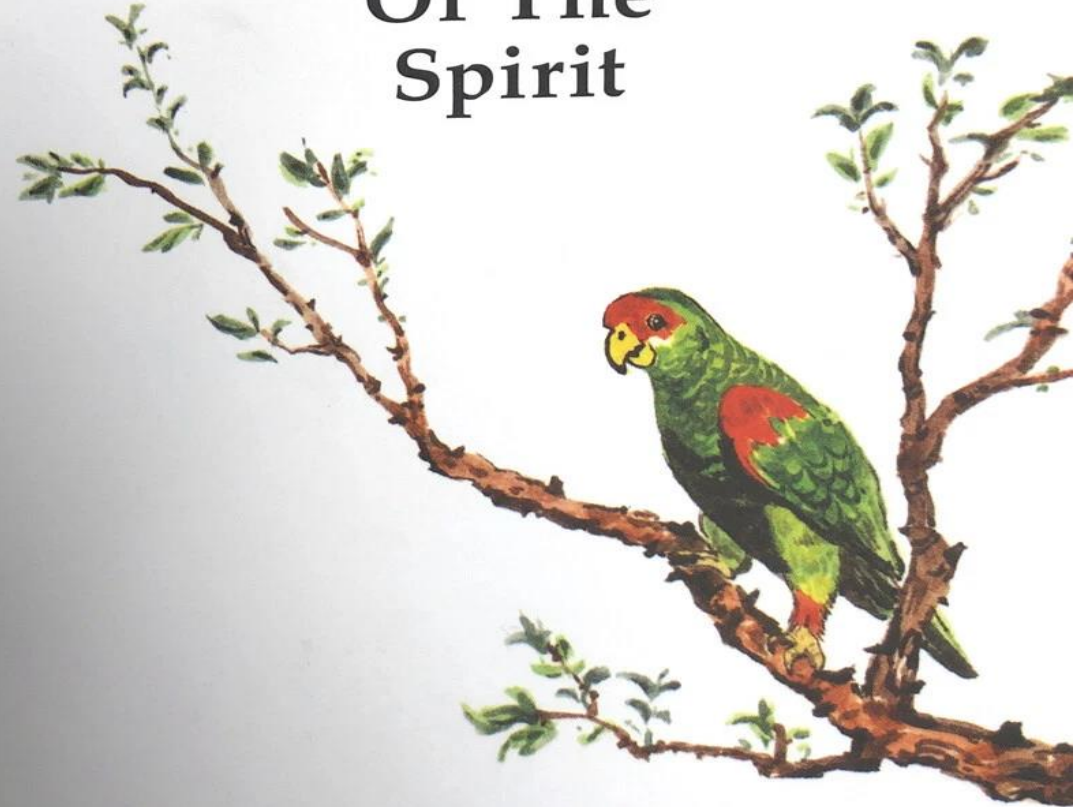


Current Book
We Are
Studying.
The Release Of
The Spirit
By Watchman
Nee

The
Release
Of The
Spirit



WATCHMAN NEE

What You Should Do

- Acts 17:10–11 (NASB 95)
- **10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for *they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.***



Opening Remarks

- **This is not behavior modification.**
- **This is not to get you to change *yourself*.**
- **It is not self destruction.**
- **Or a form of self abasement.**
- **You are not being asked to Pray more, Give more, Work more.**
- **Many of you already do works out of guilt and obligation, anyway.**



Opening Remarks

- **This is to learn to discern what God is already (right now, right here, right where you are sitting) doing in your life and cooperate with it.**

The Church and God's Work.

Chapter 5. Reminder

- **“IF WE REALLY UNDERSTAND the nature of God's work, we shall readily admit that the outward man is truly a formidable hindrance. It is true to say that God is much restricted by man. The people of God should know the ultimate purpose of the church and also the interrelationships among the church, God's power, and God's work.”**
- **Watchman Nee**



Release Of The Spirit

Chapter 8

**What Impression Do We
Give?**



What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **Of all the concepts in this book, this is one we generally overlook.**
- **I think another way to understand “Impression” is to think of it as the **spirit** we walk in and manifest.**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **Luke 9:51-56**
- **51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; 52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. 53 But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **Luke 9:51-56**
- **54 When His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”**
55 But He turned and rebuked them, *[and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; 56 for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”]* And they went on to another village.

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8. (Word Study If You Want)

- **Luke 9:51-56. Why the brackets?**
- **This discrepancy arises from textual criticism:**
- **The longer version is found in later manuscripts, including many Latin texts.**
- **The earliest and most reliable Greek manuscripts (e.g., Codex Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, Papyrus 75) omit the longer rebuke.**
- **Scholars generally agree the shorter version is original, and the longer one was likely added later for theological emphasis.**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **“WHETHER WE CAN do the Lord's work depends **not** so much on our words or actions, but rather on what comes **forth** from us. We are not able to edify others if we say one thing and emit from our lives another thing, if we act one way and live another way. What emanates from us is an important consideration.**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **“We often say that our impression of a certain person is good or bad. How do we receive such an impression? It is not just from his words, nor even from his actions. A **mysterious something expresses** itself while he is speaking or acting. It is this which gives us the impression.”**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **2 Kings 4:8–10 (NASB 95)**
- ***The Shunammite Woman***
- **8 Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food.**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- 2 Kings 4:8–10 (NASB 95)
- *The Shunammite Woman*
- 9 She said to her husband, “Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually. 10 Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, *that he can turn in there.*”

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **1 Timothy 5:24–25 (NASB 95)**
- **24 The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. 25 Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.**



What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- “We should ask ourselves, what impression do I give to others? How often we have emphasized the need for our outward man to be broken. If this brokenness is not accomplished, others meet the impact of our outward man.**



What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- **“Whenever we are in their presence they are made uncomfortable by our self-love, or pride, or obstinacy, or cleverness, or eloquence. Perhaps the impression we leave is a favorable one, but is God being satisfied? Will such an impression meet the church's need? If God is not satisfied, and the church is not helped, any impression we leave is for naught.”**

What Impression Do We Give?

Chapter 8.

- “Rather than stressing teaching, let us place more emphasis on what it is that comes forth from us. God is not watching to see if our teaching becomes deeper; He wants to **lay hold of us as individuals**. If our nature is not properly dealt with, we may give forth **so-called spiritual teaching, but there is no spiritual impartation**. How tragic when we merely impress the outward man yet do not impart something of a life impression to the inward man!”

The Amazing Work of Slaying through Enlightenment. Chapter 8.

- **“Having considered the disciplinary working of the Holy Spirit, now let us see how He employs another means to deal with our outward man. Besides discipline there will be enlightenment. Sometimes these two are used simultaneously, sometimes alternately. At times the discipline is shown in circumstances aimed at leveling our outstanding feature: at other times God graciously shines upon us to enlighten us.**

The Amazing Work of Slaying through Enlightenment. Chapter 8.

- **“The flesh, as we know, **lives hidden in darkness**. Many works of the flesh are allowed to exist because they are not recognized by us as such. Once His light reveals the flesh to us we tremble, not daring to move.”**

The Amazing Work of Slaying through Enlightenment. Chapter 8.

- Acts 9:3–6 (NASB 95)
- 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 **and he fell to the ground** and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” 5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” *And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”*

The Amazing Work of Slaying through Enlightenment. Chapter 8.

- **“This being slain by the light is one of the most needful Christian experiences. Paul did not rush to the roadside and kneel down when the light shone upon him. He fell to the ground. Though naturally capable and self-confident, he reacted to the light by falling down somewhat perplexed, yet inwardly exposed.**

The Amazing Work of Slaying through Enlightenment. Chapter 8.

- “How effectual was this light which struck him to the ground! Let us note that this happened all at once. We might assume that God first enlightens our understanding and then leaves us to work it out. That is not God's way.”**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **“Let us next compare the discipline and the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The discipline of the Holy Spirit is usually a slower process, repeated time and again perhaps for years before the point at issue is finally dealt with.**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **“(Incidentally, this discipline of the Holy Spirit oftentimes exists without any supply of ministry.) Not so with the revelation of the Holy Spirit. This often comes swiftly, within a few days or possibly a few minutes.”**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **“Under the light of God you will see in a very little time your true condition and how useless you are. Then too, revelation frequently comes through the supply of God's word. That is why the revelation of the Holy Spirit multiplies when the church is strong and the ministry of the word of God is rich.”**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **“How often when the Lord deals with us we see only the hand of man. This is entirely wrong. Like the Psalmist our attitude should be, **"I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, for thou hast done it"** (Psalm 39:9). We must remember that it is God who is dealing with us, **not** our brother or sister or any other person.”**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **“Beloved, be assured the Lord **pays far more attention to what comes out of your inner life than what comes out of your mouth.** Do not forget that in every contact you make with another, something comes out of you. It is either yourself or God flowing forth, either your outward man or the spirit.**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **“Finally, I would ask, When you stand before people what is it that comes forth? And lest we are too quick to give an answer, let us remember that this basic question can only be rightly answered "in His light.””**

Discipline Compared with Revelation Chapter 8.

- **1 Corinthians 4:20–21 (NASB 95)**
- **20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.**
- **21 What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?**



Quotes

- **Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)**
- ***“Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.”***
- This timeless quote underscores the power of living out the Gospel through actions, not just speech.



Quotes

- **Theodore Roosevelt Jr.**[\[](#) (1858-1919) 26th President of the United States. (often quoted by Christian leaders)
- ***“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”***
- Though not a theologian, this quote is widely used in Christian leadership to stress the importance of compassion over rhetoric.



Quotes

- **Rev. Billy Graham (1918-2018)**
- ***“We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding.”***
- Graham reminds us that our lives are the message people see before they hear any sermon.



Quotes

- **Francis Chan (1967-):** “We minimize dying to self because we want Christianity to be easy. But Jesus never sugarcoated the cost of following Him.”
- ➤ Chan often speaks about how Western Christianity tends to dilute the gospel to make it more palatable, avoiding the hard truths of surrender and sacrifice.



Quotes

- **William Law (1686–1761)** – from Freedom From A Self-Centered Life, Dying To Self, Edited by Andrew Murray.
- ***“Self will even offer to lead and to help us in dying to self.”***
- Law exposes the subtlety of ego, which can masquerade as humility and spiritual effort.



Quotes

- **Watchman Nee: (1903-1972)**
- ***“God is not looking for extraordinary people. He wants ordinary people who are willing to die to self.”***
- **Not self, but Christ:** Nee warned against leaving behind impressions of our personality, intellect, or spirituality. Instead, he urged believers ***to be so hidden in Christ that He alone is visible.***

Hidden In Christ?

- **Colossians 3:1-3 (NASB)**
- **3** Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things *that are* above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- **2** Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth.
- **3** For you have died, and your life is **hidden** with Christ in God.
- **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.



James McKendrick

- **New York Times, July 5th, 1938. JAMES M'KENDRICK; Scottish Evangelist, Who as Boy Worked in Mines, Dies**
- **EDINBURGH, July 4.-James McKendrick, Scottish evangelist, who had made sixteen preaching tours in the United States, died today at his home in East Rigg, Dumfriesshire, at the age of 79. He had suffered a heart attack on Sunday a week ago while addressing a meeting in Glasgow.**
- **Mr. McKendrick worked as a boy in Lanarkshire coal mines, and began preaching in his early twenties. He recently published the story of his life, which was translated into several languages, including the Chinese.**



Release Of The Spirit

Ephesians 1:18-19a (NASB 95)

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

