

Develop a Relationship with the Holy Spirit



Gary Hargrave

There is a great interest today in being prophetic. In fact, in our growth and development I believe that God leads us to be prophetic. Christians today should strive together to be a prophetic community, just as the New Testament Church was. However, we must avoid the pitfalls that can be harmful and even destructive to our growth. We must develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit so that the Son and the Father can begin to move through us.



God Is a Wondrous Being We Can Relate To

Iwant to begin with a passage from the book of Judges. This is the story about the appearing of the Lord to the parents of Samson to give instruction about the birth and raising of Samson.

Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?” But the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?”

JUDGES 13:17-18

The word “wonderful” in Hebrew is *pili*, and the meaning of this word goes beyond the concept of wonderful. It means “incomprehensible.” God is incomprehensible. It is beyond our ability to completely understand who He is, what He is, and how He functions. David expressed this same idea.

You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too high, I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

PSALM 139:3-10

David used the same word *pili* when he said, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,” again expressing that God was beyond his ability to understand. But what about God did David feel was too wonderful to know? It was that God was intimately acquainted with all David’s ways, that God had enclosed him behind and before, and laid His hand on him. David was saying, “The way You relate to me, how You love me and know me, is so close, so infinite, so intimate that it is beyond my ability to grasp.” We see then that God, who is incomprehensible to us, is intimately acquainted with all our ways. He has enclosed us before and behind, touching us with His hand, embracing us just as we would embrace another person. If God is intimately acquainted with us and can embrace us, He is clearly capable of knowing us. Therefore, if we apply that principle in reverse, we are capable of knowing Him.

When Moses asked the Lord, “Who are you?” the Lord answered, “I AM,” defining Himself as a living Being (Exodus 3:13-14). A living being is something we can have a relationship with. We refer to ourselves as human beings, defining ourselves as a type of being that we can relate to. Animals are beings that we can develop certain relationships with on different levels. God is wonderful, incomprehensible, and His nature is impossible to grasp, but He is a Being with whom we can have a relationship. We need to get over this feeling that it is too difficult to relate to the Lord, whether we are talking about the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.



God Is Relatable Through the Trinity

Part of the wonder of God is the fact that He appears to us in different manifestations or aspects of Himself. This is what we call the Trinity. He is to us a Father. That is a wonderful expression, and it is an aspect that allows us to relate to Him. If we can understand Him as Father, that gives us a way to grasp who He is and create a relationship with Him. If we can understand Him as the Son of God who came in the flesh, that again gives us a way to relate to Him in all His wonder, all His glory. If we see Him as the Messiah, if we see Him as Savior, all of those aspects are a part of His wonder. They take a piece of what is so incomprehensible and bring it down to where we can begin to comprehend it. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. When He comes to fill us, to lead us, to guide us, to teach us, then it gives us more of an understanding of how we can relate to Him whose name is Wonderful. I want to look at some Scriptures that give us this expression of the Trinity. The first is from Isaiah 63.

For He said, "Surely, they are My people,
Sons who will not deal falsely."
So He became their Savior.
In all their affliction He was afflicted,
And the angel of His presence saved them;
In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them,
And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.
But they rebelled
And grieved His Holy Spirit;
Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy,
He fought against them.
Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses.
Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock?
Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them?

ISAIAH 63:8-11

In this passage from Isaiah we see how God revealed Himself to His people, enabling them to enter into a relationship with Him. He became their Savior or Messiah. We also read that they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit (*Ruach Hakodesh* in Hebrew). So the Holy Spirit is not some new element that comes into play in the New Testament. He very much is manifested throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. At the end of this passage we read, “Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the midst of them?” Obviously, the Holy Spirit and the One who placed the Holy Spirit are two different manifestations of His presence. Without question, the reality of the Trinity is established in the Hebrew Scriptures. Now read Christ’s teaching from John 14.

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

JOHN 14:15-20

In this Scripture we find Yeshua (Jesus) speaking of Himself as one Being and the Father as another Being. Then He says, “The Father will send you the Holy Spirit,” another Being. So Christ is clearly and plainly describing the Trinity. Christ is in the Father, the Father is in Christ, and they will take up their abode in us. The Holy Spirit has already been sent and He will abide in us and with us. Therefore, not only are they manifested as the Trinity, but we have this intimacy with them that was expressed by David. They will abide in us, be with us, and surround us.



The Holy Spirit Is an Aspect of God's Wonderful Being

Yeshua said that we would receive the wonderful Holy Spirit who is an aspect of God and is part of God’s wondrous Being. The most important relationship now is your relationship

with the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is already in you. You may be waiting for the time when Christ appears. You may be waiting for the Father to take up His abode in you, but the Holy Spirit already abides in you. Christ taught that the Holy Spirit would teach us how to relate to the indwelling of the Son. And He will teach us how to relate to the indwelling of the Father. The Holy Spirit is a Being of the Trinity with whom you can develop a relationship right now.

As an aspect of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is the power of God and His authority in the universe. Yet our experiences with the Holy Spirit often cause us to think of Him as a lesser Being. One problem is that we feel like we are in control of the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is in us and the gifts of the Spirit work through us, much of what the Holy Spirit does functions at our will. The Holy Spirit does not make you speak in tongues. You choose to speak in tongues. If you have gifts, you exercise those gifts. That is the way God wants it to be. God wants to bring us into a relationship with the Holy Spirit whereby we function with Him, and He functions through us to the world. God wants us to be a prophetic community. But we cannot be that without an understanding of what it means to be prophetic.



The Function of the Holy Spirit in Us

We may prophesy by our determination, but the words are the Holy Spirit and any authority that comes through our prophecy is not from us. It is the Holy Spirit. We are releasing the Holy Spirit through our spirits and our beings. Oneness is simply this relationship that God wants us to have with Him. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit do not function independently of one another. They function in a oneness that is so wonderful it is beyond our ability to grasp. Therefore, we need to be careful that we truly have this relationship and understanding of oneness when the Holy Spirit begins to function in us and through us. If we are truly in a oneness with God, it is not us who comes through. It is the Father coming through us. It is the Son coming through us. It is the Holy Spirit coming through us.

Nevertheless, His manifestation through us is by our will. The Scriptures tell us that the Father “is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Therefore, by our wills we must will to do His will. This is what Christ did. He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL” (Hebrews 10:9). In other words, Christ willed that the will of the Father move through Him. And He became the will of the Father to such an extent that He said, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father; ... the words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works” (see John 14:9-10). Could Yeshua have stopped those Words from coming out of His mouth? Could He have not performed those works? Of course! He could have heard the Words that the Father wanted to speak and not spoken them. He could have seen that God was going to heal the lame man and walked right on by. Yeshua needed to will to do the will of the Father. And it is this relationship that God is working in us.



Do Not Minimize the Holy Spirit

We cannot minimize what it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. We cannot make it a small thing where it becomes just another experience for us that is not life changing. When Yeshua was baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness (Mark 1:9-12). Did He let the Spirit drive Him? Of course He did. The Spirit was driving Him into the wilderness, but Yeshua moved His feet to go where the Holy Spirit was driving Him. And I think we get too accustomed to not moving our feet and look instead for another way of functioning. I think that we sometimes relate to the Holy Spirit as our pet, as if He were a cute

little kitten we are holding. But Ananias learned the hard way that the Holy Spirit is not a kitten. He is a lion. Peter said to him, “Why have you lied to the Holy Spirit?” And Ananias fell over dead. The same thing happened with his wife (Acts 5:1-10).

You see, the Body of Christ at that time was a prophetic community. The people around them feared to associate with them because they saw the power and authority of the Holy Spirit turned loose through them (Acts 5:12-13). The Holy Spirit in us is far more powerful than we want to recognize. If you touched a power transformer incorrectly, you would release all that power through yourself, and it would be destructive. We should exercise the same caution with the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of power. He is the Spirit of authority. He is the Spirit from God who reached down and raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20). And we are learning to be vessels of that Spirit. We are learning to turn our wills over to His will so that more and more it is the Holy Spirit who is moving in us and through us.



The Danger of Not Moving by the Holy Spirit

We must have this because there are those who appear to be moving by the Holy Spirit but are not. James gives us a warning about this.

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

JAMES 3:13-18

James is describing a wisdom that is outside of the truth. Many times we are impressed by this kind of wisdom because it looks like revelation. It looks like the person speaking it really has something from God. But it is not from God. It is not really the truth. It does not manifest in the gentleness of wisdom but instead comes from selfish ambition and many times manifests in jealousy. This wisdom is not coming down from God. It is earthly, natural, and demonic. One of the things that happens is that this draws people to the individual because this wisdom is so impressive in what it seems to understand and what it seems to know. The problem is that it never knows what God wants known. If someone ministers this to you, it may look like wisdom. It may even look like truth. But it is a truth about your soul. It is a natural wisdom and so it is a wisdom about your nature. The wisdom that comes down from God gives people only the Words of the Holy Spirit, not what their soul is or where they are on a human level. The Holy Spirit reveals what God has for someone, what the will of God is for that person.

There are many things that can be discerned. Some people are naturally more perceptive or psychic and can read things. The issue is what are you reading and by what means are you reading it? Our purpose is not to be reading the world though psychic or natural means, or worse yet, through the demonic realm. We must be moving in the Holy Spirit. We must have the mind of Christ, which is the mind of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12-13, 16). Imagine how the psychic or natural man would have prophesied over Saul. He was persecuting the Church. He was stoning people to death. He was violent against the faith (Acts 8:1-3). Imagine the Church at that time moving on a natural level, reading his soul, the psychic reality of where Paul was positioned at that moment, and saying, "We need to judge this man." It would have been a disaster.



Obedience Is Easy. Relationship Is Hard.

This human psychic ability to mimic the movement of the Holy Spirit manifests a false thing. We must stay far away from that in our development. The temptation is to go that direction

because it is easier. Satan does not require a relationship. He just requires obedience. Obedience is easy. Relationship is hard. A relationship must be developed. You have to maintain a relationship. It takes time. It takes engagement and discussion. It takes a great deal of learning one another. The psychic, natural, and demonic realms do not require a relationship and so it is easier. It takes less effort. But if you want to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit it will take time and energy. It will take determination. It will take driving into His will. To move in the Holy Spirit, you need to take on His nature and that only happens through a relationship.

The nature of Christ is to do the will of the Father. The nature of the Holy Spirit is to do the will of Christ. And your nature in the Holy Spirit must be to do His will. We must will to know His will so that His will is what we do, and His Word is what we speak. We are not looking to find different forms of worship or polish up our doctrines or just have divine order. We are looking to see the power of the Holy Spirit moving through the Body of Christ. The way we get there is by rejecting and refusing to move on a natural or psychic level and getting a relationship with the Holy Spirit. If you have a natural tendency to be psychic or perceptive or can read things that are going to transpire, examine where that is coming from. If it is not the Holy Spirit, ask the Father to replace that with the gifts of the Spirit—the wisdom and understanding and knowledge that is only by the Holy Spirit—because the Holy Spirit will always unfold to you the will of Christ, the will of the Father, and we must have that true wisdom and knowledge about one another.

As we move together, we had better not be reading others only by what they are going through and what is happening in their lives. We had better know what God wants. We had better know by the gift of wisdom and understand through the Holy Spirit what their destiny is in God and how we can help them get there. We need to do that with everything around us. How do we prophesy for our country unless we know the will of God for this nation? We do not want natural things. We do not want the wisdom of the demonic realm. We want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We want Him to teach us. We want Him to speak through us.

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org

