

# The Holy Spirit Is Always “On Call”

By Mary J. Ferrill Brown

The Holy Spirit is a precious gift that is freely given to all who call on the name of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-16). The concept of the Holy Spirit (also referred to as the Spirit of God) is not a New Testament phenomenon. The Trinity—God, Son, and Holy Spirit—God, three in one, existed from the very start. To me, John 1:1-2 is one of the most beautifully written passages in the Bible. It poetically describes, in no uncertain terms, that Jesus was with God in the beginning. Furthermore, we learn in Genesis 1:1-2, that the Holy Spirit was with God at the time of creation. Matthew 28:19 relates how Jesus specifically commanded all Christians to call upon the Holy Trinity in their ministries.

The concept of the Holy Spirit interacting with humans in the Old Testament is much different than in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament was specifically given to individuals, but could also be taken away. Some examples include in Psalm 51:1 (NIV) David pleads with God, *“Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”* Mark 12:36 (NIV) mentions the Holy Spirit speaking through King David: *“David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: ‘‘The Lord said to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’’’* Although God initially anointed King Saul with His Holy Spirit, He later withdrew it (I Samuel 16:14).

I often wonder whether I am fully utilizing the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. That question came to mind frequently when I served on a medical mission field. The Spirit is constantly with us, but I must admit, I specifically felt His strong presence when in the mission field serving in medical clinics. Most instances occurred when I was helping the physicians in the diagnostics area. Those who have served know all too well that the number of patients seeking care at the clinic can often be overwhelming. I would sometimes explain to them that I was a Doctor of Pharmacy and that I would take their patient history. If I could help them, I would prescribe a treatment plan. If their history or condition was too complex, I would send their information to the doctor for further assessment. Since I was typically the only female “doctor,” I was often specifically requested.

I recall a strong presence from the Holy Spirit as I was severing as “doctor” and interacting with a beautiful young girl. Beautiful doesn’t adequately describe her. Maybe stunning might be a better word. I remember seeing her in the waiting room and I did a double take because of her striking features. She later ended up in the diagnostic area with me. Through a female interpreter, I started to take her patient history. She stated that her chief complaint was pain

in her ears and she thought she had an ear infection. The Holy Spirit immediately prompted me to question her further, even before I checked her ears twice and saw no indication of an infection. Several times I asked the interpreter to ask her why she really came to the clinic. No change in answer. I tried telling her that if I gave her a treatment for a condition that she didn’t really have, then the treatment could harm her. Still nothing. I took her hands and looked her directly in her eyes, even though I couldn’t speak her language. I asked the interpreter to tell her that Jesus loves her and that He still loves her no matter what she has done or what she tells me.

She broke down and admitted that she had had unprotected sex with several men and that she thinks she now has an infection. I smiled, hugged her, and thanked her for her honesty. I wrote a prescription for our STI protocol which included condoms. As I sat looking at this beautiful young girl and the long line of patients to be seen, again I was prompted by the Spirit to do more. I wasn’t sent there to only heal diseases, but to save souls. I initially started telling her that I could give her condoms, but Jesus has a plan and a purpose for our lives, and I know that He loves her. I told her God could forgive her sins and turn them from red to white like snow (Isaiah 1:1:18b). I knew the interpreter had the gift of evangelism and was skilled at bringing people to Christ. I asked her if she was willing to bypass her role as interpreter, and directly witness to the girl, to determine if she would like to accept Jesus as her savior. However, I also wanted the girl to understand how important she was to me. I sat there for the 30 minutes that the interpreter told her about Jesus, despite a long line of patients in the waiting area. At several points I gave her a Kleenex, not knowing what was happening with the conversation. The interpreter then looked at me and said that there was no need for the condoms because she had accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior and was now going to practice abstinence and wait until marriage. Praise the Lord!

The Lord is always so gracious. Although the day I saw that young girl was one of our busiest clinic days, we were able to see all the patients, and had many, including this beautiful young lady, join us in the Kingdom of God. But when I reflect on this story, realizing that everyone we encounter is our neighbor, shouldn’t we be asking for Kingdom moments like this one to occur on a regular basis, right where we are? I have been praying for the Lord to make me more aware of the Holy Spirit’s prompting so that I don’t miss Kingdom building opportunities that spring up around me when I least expect it. The Holy Spirit is with us 24/7, primed and ready to go. Please join me in this prayer.