

# Something Extraordinary Happened in Gethsemane!

We know from scripture that whatever Jesus was like in the days of His youth, He was NOT complete for the task before Him. There was still a dimension missing in His life, and this missing dimension, necessary for His work, came to Him at His water baptism when "God's Spirit" came upon Him in **Mt 3:16**. This Spirit completed Him and completely fitted Him for His work as The Prophet Moses had told the Israelites to expect.

Prior to His baptism, Jesus did no miracles, but now, with His Father's Spirit, Jesus was able to heal leprosy, oedema, palsy, blood flows, severed ears, the blind, the deaf and the dumb. He was able to raise the dead, cast out demons, feed multitudes, provide draughts of fish and loaves of bread, restore withered arms, walk on water, calm storms, curse fig trees, turn water into wine, travel instantly to another place (with others in the boat), provide taxes and know the thoughts and movements of people. All these things were done only AFTER His water baptism when this power, this ability, was present IN HIM to enable Him. We must deduce that this God Spirit is the great enabler, the Spirit of Yehovah in the Old Testament.

We also know, as it is never mentioned in scripture, that neither Jesus nor His disciples worked for their food during His ministry. With Jesus' saying in **John 6:27** "*Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life...*", we see the importance Jesus is placing on the ministry compared to working for food, clothing and shelter. We are told however, that there were some women (**Matt 27:55, Mark 15:41, Lk 8:1-2, Lk 23:49**) occasionally following Jesus, who attended to His and the disciples needs. Despite this, we even have to wonder what Jesus' physical needs might have been, given statements like this from Him in **John 4:32** "...*I have food to eat that you do not know about.*" AND **John 4:34** "...*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*" Could it be that Yehovah's Spirit in Christ was also sustaining Him physically? This Spirit is certainly capable of doing so as we are reminded that Yehovah fed the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness. He not only fed them but their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

When the disciples were sent out two by two, they were to go to whatever place that received them, where their greeting of peace would remain, and to stay in that house until they left that area. **Luke 10:8** ...*Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you.* We see that these people who received them provided for them. No doubt those who were healed would have also been willing to help provide for them. The disciples did of course buy food at times, presumably with money given them, but one wonders if even this was necessary. Listen to **Matt. 14:15-16** "... *so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.*" But Jesus said to them, "*They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!*" AND in **Luke 9:12-13** which says the same thing: "... *Send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages and country round about, and lodge, and get provisions: for we are here in a desert place. But He said to them, "You give them something to eat!"* Jesus was expecting His disciples to feed the people but they had no idea of the power of the Spirit that had been delegated to them through Jesus. We see this lack of realisation expressed again in **Matt. 16:8** ...*O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have no bread? 9 Do ye not yet perceive, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 11 How is it that ye do not perceive that I spake not to you concerning bread?*

If God's Spirit in Jesus could feed thousands, is it not possible that it could also feed Jesus and the disciples? The answer is of course, yes, even though we have no record of this happening. If God's Spirit in Christ could do all the things listed at the beginning of this article, could it not also provide for and even protect them? We do have a record of the Spirit protecting Jesus on two occasions. We see this clearly in **John 8:58-59** "*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I am. They took up stones therefore to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.*" The way this is translated in most Bibles, implies that Jesus did the hiding. But the Greek word translated hid, is in the passive voice in the Greek, thus indicates that Jesus was the recipient of the hiding not the doer of the hiding. My bible, the NASB, has a margin note to this effect saying, literally "was hidden". This is the correct translation and it shows us that "someone else" was doing the hiding. Is there any doubt that it was God's Spirit in Christ doing the hiding? This exact same rationale applies to the **John 12:36** verse as well where the word, hid, is again incorrectly translated. Further protection of Jesus is seen in **Luke 4:29-30**: "...*and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way.*" We have to ask, how did He just pass through their midst after being brought to the brow of the hill? There is only one answer. God's Spirit in Him achieved this.

We also see more than a little of these powers or enablings in the OT judges and prophets. Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Saul, David, Elijah, Jahaziel, Ezekiel and Micah, are specifically stated as having had the **Spirit of Yehovah** upon them. One can read of their mighty exploits. **Micah 3:8** particularly says, "*But as for me, I am full of power by the Spirit of Yehovah, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.*" It is the presence of this Spirit, Yehovah's Spirit, which enables these powerful abilities. We find Isaiah prophesying in **Isaiah 11:1-4**, that the Spirit of Yehovah would come upon the Messiah: "*And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of Yehovah shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yehovah. And his delight shall be in the fear of Yehovah; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decide after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the*

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*mEEK of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."* Here this Spirit is called the Spirit of Yehovah but we see that the New Testament calls it "God's Spirit" at the baptism of Jesus in **Mt 3:16**.

In all this, we are made to ponder what this "Spirit of Yehovah" is really capable of doing if it is in us. When we read **Rev 11:11** which talks about "**the Spirit of LIFE out of the God**" and also **Rom. 8:2** which again speaks of "**the Spirit of the LIFE in Christ Jesus**" setting us free from the law of sin and of death, we realise that God's Spirit, the Spirit of Yehovah, **IS ... LIFE ... itself**. This Spirit IS LIFE ITSELF. It is the very essence of the Father, and is supremely captured in the very words of Yehovah Himself in the New Jerusalem Bible's version of **Ex 3:14**, "I AM HE WHO IS."

There are many other scriptures saying the same thing, but here I wish to draw attention particularly to **Romans 8:11 ...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give LIFE to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you**. God's Spirit/Yehovah's Spirit gives LIFE to mortal bodies. This Spirit is so powerful, is so LIFE itself, that physical death is non-existent in its presence. Physical death can not touch anyone in whom the fullness of this Spirit resides. Such a person is not even able to die physically until that Spirit is removed and, of course, the Father can and does remove it, since we are told that death is the last enemy to be put under Christ's feet which is why most people up to now have eventually died.

Consider also **Mark 16:16-18** "**These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**" This ability to lay hands on the sick and see them recover belongs to those who are able to drink anything deadly or take up serpents and not be harmed. Why? Because they have God's Spirit in them giving life to their mortal bodies. Of course, it is not limited to those who drink poison or get bitten by deadly snakes. Anything which can normally harm the human body is inferred here. Remember Paul in Acts 28:4-6: "**And when the barbarians saw the venomous creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped from the sea, yet Justice hath not suffered to live. Howbeit he shook off the creature into the fire, and took no harm. But they expected that he would have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but when they were long in expectation and beheld nothing amiss came to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.**" This shows us that God's Spirit was inside the apostle Paul and He even tells us so in **1Cor 7:40**<sup>1</sup>, for even the venom of a deadly snake bite could not harm him. By simple extension then anything that might normally harm a human body is rendered totally ineffective by the presence of God's Spirit, the Spirit of Life, Yehovah's Spirit.

We see in these few examples that God's Spirit is able to provide bodily **needs** and **protection**.

Now we come to the scripture in **Luke 22:35-37**, a passage often wondered about as to its significance. The setting is Jesus walking probably late in the evening with His disciples from the last supper to Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, *...And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, nothing." And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has fulfilment."*

Jesus is saying to His disciples that their situation is going to change. He is saying to them that "the very thing", that is giving them their provision and protection, is going to go away and they will need to revert back to the "old" way of living. Jesus tells us that this change needs to take place, since this provider, this protector must be removed from Jesus so that He can be "**numbered with transgressors**." Jesus expresses this numbering with transgressors in different ways in **Mt 17:22** *...And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be delivered up into the hands of men; AND **Mark 9:31** *...For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered up into the hands of men.... AND **Luke 9:44** *...Let these words sink into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered up into the hands of men. AND finally **Luke 24:7** *...saying that the Son of man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men. The fullness of the meaning of this phrase, into the hands of men, and lastly emphasised as, into the hands of sinful men, is described for us by Jesus Himself at the very time of His arrest in Gethsemane in **Luke 22:53** *...When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched not forth your hands against me: but **this is your hour, and the authority of the darkness**. It is at this very point of His arrest when they lay hands on Him that something extraordinary happened in Gethsemane, for "the very thing" that was in Him, God's Spirit, was removed from Him so that He could be **numbered with transgressors**. The period of time He was **numbered with transgressors** starts at this point in Gethsemane and goes through to His resurrection. This is the period of time He was without God's Spirit in His body. It is called elsewhere **in the heart of the earth** in **Matt 12:40**.*****

This Spirit in Jesus since His baptism, which gives life to Christ's mortal body (as per **Rom 8.11**), and which provided for and protected the disciples was going to have to go away if they were going to number Him with transgressors. That is what He is telling His disciples in this Luke passage. We then discover in **John 10:17-18**, that Jesus of His own volition lay down "God's Spirit": *... Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my soul, that I may take it again. No one taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power (authority) to lay it down, and I have power (authority) to take it again. This commandment received I from my Father.... Even though He received this command from His Father, this is the only time recorded in scripture where we are told Jesus does something of His own volition.*

We can be sure this laying down of the Father's Spirit in Him happened in Gethsemane at the point of His arrest when they

<sup>1</sup> ... and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

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lay sinful hands on Him. This is given great confirmation when we realise that the word, Gethsemane, means **oil press**; the place where all the oil (God's Spirit) is separated from the olive (Jesus). Jesus was under the greatest of stress to relinquish this Spirit for it was not taken from Him, He lay it down. This, to me, was Christ's worst agony of the whole crucifixion. Drops of sweat like blood reflect the extreme depth of His anguish. Only after this separation were the Judeans and Romans ever going to be able to lay hands on Him to put Him to death. This is why He tells His disciples they must now revert to the old way of living as they now had no protection.

I strongly suspect the delivery into the hands of sinful men actually happened at midnight in Gethsemane, for it was at midnight that Yehovah slew the first born of Egypt (**Exodus 11:4-5, 12:29**). It is my further conviction, that the three days and three nights in the **heart of the earth** are the full three days and full three nights Jesus was **numbered with transgressors**. It has nothing to do with the time in the grave, though the time in the grave is part of this period. Just as Jonah was under the control of another domain when he was in the large fish, so also Christ was under the control of another domain, the domain of darkness, as he gave up Himself into the hands of sinful men when they seized Him. These three days and three nights began probably at midnight, in the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus, of His own volition, gave up the Father's Spirit in Him, and ended at midnight at His resurrection 72 hours later when He received back YHVH's Spirit at midnight on the Sabbath, but this time, with a glorified resurrected human body. Thus the Christ becomes **...the beginning of the creation of the God (Rev 3:14), ...the beginning, the firstborn from the dead. (Col 1:18), ...the first begotten of the dead (Rev 1:5), ...the firstborn among many brothers (Rom. 8:29), ...the firstfruits of them that are asleep (1Cor. 15:20), ...the firstborn of all creation (Col 1.15).**

Many criminals have suffered the physical pain of a flogging and crucifixion at the hands of the Romans, and we can imagine a little of these sufferings when we watch the likes of Mel Gibson's film, The Passion of the Christ. BUT no man has ever had to lay down the Spirit of God in him of his own volition so that His pure blood might be spilt for the whole world. I can not begin to imagine nor comprehend what this would have been like for Jesus, but He did it for all of us.

Herein lies the real reality of the sacrifice which the Messiah made at Calvary and the extraordinary, incomprehensible love He has for all mankind.

The finalisation of this separation of the Spirit is seen in the garden when the crowd "*seized Him*", for in **Luke 22:53** Jesus says, *...but this is your hour, and the power of darkness. And they seized him, and lead him away...* From here on, Jesus would be alone, in satan's domain of darkness, delivered into the hands of sinful men, **numbered with transgressors**, ... until the day Yehovah raised Him up.

I can not begin to comprehend the pain of giving up God's Spirit. Monumentally worse than everything that followed.

Oh the Love of the Christ for us!  
Beyond comprehension!  
Thank you, Lord Jesus.