

Restraining Power of the Holy Spirit

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The purpose of this teaching is to examine the power that God has given us that restrains Satan's ability to completely rule over this world and over our lives.

This is called the restraining power of the Holy Spirit.

When we are born again, our bodies become the temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

After the cross when Jesus said "it is finished" the Holy Spirit departed the "Ark" or that which was made with hands and now indwells in us.

1 Cor 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The Holy Spirit now indwells us and empowers us to resist Satan's devices. It is our responsibility to use this "restraining power" to resist the works of the flesh.

Romans 8:13

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The works of the flesh (Galatians 5 and Colossians 3) are those areas through which Satan promotes temptation and entices us. We are told to resist him.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

We have a promise from God that Satan will flee from us if we will resist him. We must, however, submit to the rule of the Holy Spirit who indwells us. If we do this, then we are empowered by the Spirit, and we can resist Satan effectively.

James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Today, most denominations deny the power of the Holy Spirit. They may speak of Him, but they do not possess the “Personality attributes of Him”. They have replaced Him with “Politically Correct” values. But at the same time there is an outpouring of God’s Spirit worldwide virtually unnoticed by the media.

**Jesus taught that there are 2 types of Christians.
Foolish and Wise**

They are those of the same profession and denomination but vastly different in the sight of God.

Matt 25:1-13 (KJV)-Ten Virgins.

¹ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

² And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

³ They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

⁴ But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

⁵ While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

⁷ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

¹² But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

¹³ Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

**The bridegroom is the Lord Jesus.
His bride is the church.**

The virgins are professors of religion, members of the same church.

Their main concern is to have lights in their hands when they attend the bridegroom. Christians are children of light.

True religion is wisdom

The evidence of their affection was in found in what they attend to.

5 FOOLISH VIRGINS

The foolish had a lamp of profession in their hands, but not in their hearts that will carry them through the trials of this life.

They have no prospect or have made provision for what is to come. They take the lamps for the present or lay up for the time to come 1 Tim 6:19.

The ten foolish virgins had just enough oil to burn for the present. To make a show. But no oil if the bridegroom should tarry.

Their common fault! They all slumbered and slept.

Their lamps of profession will soon fade. The lamps of hypocrites often go out in this life.

**They begin in the Spirit and end in the Flesh.
Wisdom is the application of Knowledge; obedience is the application of wisdom.**

**They wanted oil from the others virgins.
“THERE IS NO BUYING WHEN THE MARKET IS CLOSED.” No bidding when the flame goes out.**

THE Door was Shut.

When the church leaves this earth at the rapture, and the Holy Spirit dwells in Spirit Led Christians, the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way, and His unique lawlessness-restraining ministry— through God's people— will be removed!

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.

The most heart wrenching idea to grip me recently has been a fresh revelation of this world completely without God. Can you imagine our present society suddenly free of all moral restraints?

Everything that now represents purity and the high and holy things will be absolutely removed and non-existing, allowing unfettered evil to completely baptize the world. It will be a dark and filthy place. Satan will realize his long dream of world control and will turn this globe into hell on earth.

Isaiah 59:19 KJV

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him".

Isaiah spoke of the "Restraining" action of the Holy Ghost with this marvelous statement: The word "standard" means a force or power superior to the enemy.

It suggests to "chase away," "put to flight," or to "vanish." The believer or the church that dares to depend wholly on the Holy Spirit is destined to be a great power for God. The Holy Spirit alone is God's restraining power to "vanish" all our enemies and we certainly need no other.

He is the “restrainer” that is holding back sin and lawlessness.

The power that holds back Satan from bringing the final apostasy and unveiling of his Satan-possessed false Christ (the Antichrist) is the Holy Spirit. He is the same power restraining your flesh. It must be God’s power in operation that holds back Satan, so that the “man of sin,” “the son of destruction” (v. 3) won’t be able to come until God permits it by removing the restraining power.

The reason for the restraint.....is so that the Antichrist would be revealed at God’s appointed time and no sooner!

How does He do it? Through Christians, He works in society to hold back the swelling tide of lawless living.

But, at the rapture, He will be removed from the earth, allowing sin to have dominion over mankind

During the Tribulation God does something most fascinating.

Rev 7:4

The Holy Spirit Indwells 144,000 Prophets who speak “Thus saith the Lord”.

The Bible tells us He will continue His salvation work by initially sealing the 144,000 Jews to be.

and their mission is to evangelize the post-rapture world and proclaim the gospel during the tribulation period. As a result of their ministry, millions—“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language” ([Revelation 7:9](#))—will come to faith in Christ.

There can be no doubt hut that Satan and all the powers of Hell are already at work. There is a growing spirit of wickedness, even a diabolical surge of an Antichrist spirit. Christianity is hated with a vengeance by an ever enlarging group of people. Satan is enlarging his kingdom and vying for the worship of the world. His present tactics are marvelously successful as men have become more humanistic and less discerning of the true realities of the spiritual world.