

## Teaching Guide: Surrendering to the Holy Spirit



### Opening Thought

Before we embark on our journey to learn about spiritual mapping and to wage warfare on behalf of ourselves, our families, and our communities, we need to understand that cultivating a relationship with the Holy Spirit is more important than anything else. In our own power, we can do nothing, much less go into territory that is dangerous without discernment.

Before we learn how to map spiritual territory. Before we talk about principalities and strategies and warfare. Before any of that, we need to stop and ask ourselves an honest question.

#### *Whose agenda are we bringing to the table?*

Because there is a way to pursue the power of the Holy Spirit that has very little to do with the Holy Spirit Himself. We can learn the language. We can know the strategies. We can be passionate about intercession and spiritual authority. And still be using God rather than knowing Him. Still be inviting the Holy Spirit to serve our plans rather than surrendering ourselves to His.

Kathryn Kuhlman, a woman through whom some of the most extraordinary miracles flowed, understood something that most of us spend years getting wrong. The miracles were not the point. They were never the point. The point was a Person.

*“Today I would like to lift the lid of my heart to you and talk about a person, about one on whom I am completely dependent... and that person is the Holy Spirit.” Kathryn Kuhlman*

Not a force. Not a power supply. Not a tool for our ministry. A Person. With feelings. With desires. With a will of His own. And with the extraordinary, tender willingness to make His home in us, if we will actually give Him the room.

### **He Is a Person, Not a Power Source**

The most dangerous thing we can do with the Holy Spirit is treat Him like electricity. Something we switch on when we need results. Something that powers our gifts, our ministry, our intercession and that we are not really interested in when the service is over.

The Holy Spirit does not want to be used. He wants to be known.

**John 14:16–17**

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper; that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

Jesus did not say: I will send you a power. He said: I will send you another Person just like Me. The word is Paraclete; the one called alongside. He is not above us, sending down power from a distance. He is beside us. Present. Personal. We can get to know Him.

**John 14:26 NKJV**

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

He teaches. He reminds. He initiates. These are the actions of a Person who is engaged. This is not the language of electricity. This is the language of relationship.

**John 16:13–14 NKJV**

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

Notice that the Holy Spirit has a listening life. He hears. He speaks. He glorifies. Every verb in that passage belongs to a Person in relationship, not to a force or a power. When we understand this, everything changes.

He wants a friendship with us. That is what He is after with each one of us.

**Ephesians 4:30 NKJV**

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

You can grieve a Person. The fact that the Word tells us not to grieve Him is the clearest possible indication that He has feelings, that He is present, that He notices what we do with Him, and that it matters to Him.



*“I am so afraid of one thing: I am afraid lest I grieve the Holy Spirit. For when the Holy Spirit is lifted from me, I am the most ordinary person that ever lived.”*

**Kathryn Kuhlman**

### **Romans 8:26–27 NKJV**

*Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

He intercedes. He makes intercession for us with groanings. He feels the weight of what we carry. He is not passive or distant or waiting to be switched on. He is already working, already praying, already pressing toward what God has for us. This is a Friend who does not wait to be invited. This is a Person who stays.

### **1 Corinthians 2:10–12 NKJV**

*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God. He is not a shallow resource. He is not a quick fix. He goes to the depths of God and of us. And He has been given to us specifically so that we might know what God has freely given. Not so we can perform. So we can know.

### **Not a Seat at the Table: The Head of It**

Many of us have given the Holy Spirit a seat at the table. We include Him. We invite Him into our plans. We ask for His blessing on what we have already decided. We bring Him in at the point where we need something from Him.

That is not a partnership. That is patronage.



The question He is asking every one of us today is not: will you make room for Me? The question is: will you give Me the whole thing? Not the difficult parts you cannot manage alone. Everything. The plans. The ministry. The agenda. The outcome. The glory.

### **Romans 8:14 NKJV**

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Led by. Not assisted by. Not occasionally consulted by. Led. He goes first. We follow. The direction is His. The pace is His. The initiative is His. And when we truly live that way, when the Holy Spirit is genuinely at the head of the table, what flows is not our ministry with His help. It is His ministry through our yielded lives.

### **2 Corinthians 3:17–18 NKJV**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Not pressure. Not performance. Not striving to produce what He should be free to release. Where He is truly Lord, where He genuinely has the chair at the head, there is freedom. And transformation happens not by effort but by beholding. By being in His presence long enough, we begin to look like what we are looking at.

Kathryn Kuhlman described the moment this became real for her. She had been a successful evangelist for years. Famous. Effective. In charge. And then God brought her to a dead-end street in a particular town. She walked it alone, tears streaming. And she put everything down.

*“Today I can take you down a dead-end street in a certain town in a certain state where I surrendered everything, body, soul, and spirit to Jesus. Walking there with the tears streaming down my face, for the first time in my life it was none of self and all of Him.”* **Kathryn Kuhlman**

None of self. All of Him. That is not a prayer we pray once and then move on. That is a posture we keep choosing; sometimes daily, sometimes moment by moment, as our own agendas keep wanting to take the chair back.



### **John 3:30 NKJV**

*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

### **The Honest Check**

#### **Psalm 139:23–24 NKJV**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Here are some honest questions to sit with quietly. Not to condemn. To examine.

- Have I been pursuing spiritual power more than I have been pursuing the Person who gives it?
- Have I brought the Holy Spirit my agenda and asked Him to bless it, rather than coming with empty hands asking for His?
- Have I grieved Him by treating His gifts as tools for my purposes, for my ministry success, my spiritual reputation, my sense of being effective?
- Is there an area of my life, my plans, my relationships, my leadership, where I have genuinely not given Him the chair at the head?
- When was the last time I was with the Holy Spirit, not asking for anything, simply being present with Him?

Kuhlman warned that the greater the anointing, the more the temptation to make it about ourselves:

*“The greater the yieldedness, the greater will be the temptations. With that infilling of the Spirit comes a responsibility that is tremendous. There is a temptation to work for self-glory; there are temptations for personal honours and distinctions; there’s a temptation for material gain.”*

#### **Kathryn Kuhlman**

These are not the temptations of unspiritual people. They are the temptations of people who are genuinely being used by God and who slowly, quietly begin to believe they are the point. The Holy Spirit cannot be used as a means to an end. He is the end. He is Himself the destination.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19–20 NKJV**



*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

You are not your own. The temple belongs to Him. The agenda belongs to Him. The outcomes belong to Him. The glory belongs to Him. This is not a restriction; this is the greatest liberation available to us.

### **What He Is Looking For**

Here is the thing that undoes every argument about qualification, ability, and worthiness. What the Holy Spirit is looking for has nothing to do with any of those things. Being yielded is the only qualification. Not gifted. Not educated. Not experienced. Not impressive. Yielded.

Death to self is not a morbid thing. It is the most liberating thing that can happen to a person. Because when we stop trying to manage God and simply give ourselves to Him, our whole selves, not the tidy, presented version but the real thing, He fills what is empty. He directs what was out of alignment. He uses what was ordinary.

### **Acts 1:8 NKJV**

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

The power comes after the coming. And the coming is in response to the yielding. We do not manufacture the power. We do not work ourselves into it. We simply become the empty vessel and He fills it.

### **Ezekiel 36:26–27 NKJV**

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

This is the promise beneath everything we are doing today. He does not just fill the vessel. He changes the vessel. He takes the stone and replaces it with flesh. He takes the resistance and



transforms it into responsiveness. He puts His Spirit within us and causes us to walk. Not forces us. Causes us; makes possible from the inside what we could never produce from the outside.

All we have to do is surrender. Not achieve. Not perform. Not prove. Surrender. It is everything we need to do before we walk into the battlefield.

### **Closing Thought: Give Him the Chair**

An empty vessel is the only one that can be filled. We need to empty ourselves, and we need to give the Holy Spirit the chair at the head of the table.

So before we pray warfare prayers, before we bind, before we declare, before we map, we are going to do the most important thing first. We are going to become empty. We are going to give Him the chair. We are going to repent for every time we have used Him rather than loved Him. And we are going to invite Him, not to our agenda, but to Himself. To be Himself in us, fully, without our interference.

### **Psalm 51:11–12 NKJV**

*Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

That was David's cry. Let it be ours today.

### **PRAYER OF SURRENDER & REPENTANCE**

#### **REPENTANCE**

*Take some time to pray these prayers and add to them whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to pray.*

Holy Spirit, I come to You before I come to anything else today. And I come with honesty.

I repent for the times I have treated You like a tool, something to be picked up when I needed power and set down when I did not. I repent for the times I have brought You my agenda and called it prayer. For the times I have wanted Your gifts more than I have wanted You. For the times I have cared more about what You could do through me than about who You are to me.



Forgive me for grieving You. For moving ahead without You. For sitting in the chair that belongs to You and calling it leadership.

## **SURRENDER**

Today I lay it all down. My plans. My hopes for what will happen. My ideas about what You should do and how You should move. My reputation. My ministry. My agenda.

Holy Spirit, the chair at the head of this table, it is Yours. Not just today. But every day and every area of my life.

I do not want You as a guest in my plans. I want to be a guest in Yours.

I choose You. Not what You can do. Not the gifts. Not the power. You, the Person, my Friend, the One who searches all things, the One who knows me fully and chooses to dwell in me anyway. I choose You.

## **INVITATION**

Holy Spirit, come. Not to perform. Not to produce results I can measure. Come because You are welcome here, all of You, in all of me.

I am an empty vessel. Fill me. Lead me. Correct me when I try to take the chair back. Be so close that those around me cannot tell where I end and You begin.

I want the friendship. The unbroken communion. The life that is truly none of self and all of You.

Have all of me, Holy Spirit. Every room. Every agenda. Every plan. Take the head of the table and never give it back.

In the name of Jesus, who sent You to us. Amen.

## **FULL SCRIPTURE REFERENCE**

*For personal study and standing on*

## **THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**John 14:16–17 NKJV: Another Helper**



*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

**John 14:26 NKJV: He Teaches and Reminds**

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

**John 15:26 NKJV: He Testifies**

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*

**John 16:13–14 NKJV: He Guides into All Truth**

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

**Romans 8:26–27 NKJV: He Intercedes**

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

**1 Corinthians 2:10–12 NKJV: He Searches the Deep Things of God**

*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

**Ephesians 4:30 NKJV: Do Not Grieve Him**

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

## **1 Corinthians 6:19–20 NKJV: Temple of the Holy Spirit**

*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

## **SURRENDER AND BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT**

### **Romans 8:14 NKJV: Led by the Spirit**

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

### **2 Corinthians 3:17–18 NKJV: Liberty and Transformation**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

### **Acts 1:8 NKJV: Power When He Has Come Upon You**

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

### **John 3:30 NKJV: He Must Increase**

*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

### **Galatians 5:16, 25 NKJV: Walk in the Spirit**

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh... If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

## **REPENTANCE, CLEANSING AND RESTORED RELATIONSHIP**

### **Psalms 51:10–12 NKJV: David's Cry**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*



### **Psalm 139:23–24 NKJV: Search Me**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

### **1 John 1:9 NKJV: If We Confess**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### **THE PROMISE: WHAT HE WILL DO IN US**

#### **Ezekiel 36:26–27 NKJV: A New Heart, A New Spirit**

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

#### **Romans 15:13 NKJV: Abounding in Hope**

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

#### **Ephesians 3:16–17 NKJV: Strengthened in the Inner Being**

*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*