

HOLY SPIRIT: A STRONG SPIRIT

“So the child grew and became strong in spirit” (Luke 1:80).

This was written of John the Baptist. He was the last of the Old Testament prophets, even though he lived at the same time as Jesus. Jesus compared John to Elijah (Matthew 11:14). He said of him, “Of those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist” (Matthew 11:11). Part of John’s greatness was that he didn’t see himself as great. He considered himself unworthy to baptize Jesus. The key to a strong spirit is given in John’s words: “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30). Jesus told the Apostle Paul, “My strength is made perfect in weakness” (II Corinthians 12:9). The testimony of Paul is “When I am weak, then I am strong” (II Corinthians 12:10). Our spirits were made to grow in strength. Strength of spirit is required to withstand the enemy. Spiritual battles test the strength of our spirit. In fact, one reason we face battles is to strengthen our spirit. God is constantly preparing us for the next battle, and the preparation is in our spirit. Watchman Nee states, “As the spirit waxes stronger the power of intuition and discernment increases.” The Holy Spirit doesn’t just do things for us. We cooperate with Him in our regenerated spirit. Our spirit must be exercised. The spirit can be wounded and weakened. When that happens it must be strengthened by a fresh work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us strength we need in the inner man.