

The work of the Holy Spirit John 16:7-11

Imagine a leader who announces his retirement at his inauguration; when you think you needed him most! One Bishop in Kenya did exactly that at his enthronement. He said in his charge 'I am giving this diocese only 8 years of service and after which I will take early retirement. I am sure by that time I will have given all I have to offer. I appeal to you clergy and all Christians to start to pray today for my successor'.

This can only come from confident leaders who know who they are and are not worried about the future. Our Lord Jesus Christ made the same declaration just a few months (3years) into his public ministry. His followers were warming up to his rising popularity as he taught with authority, healed the sick, raised the dead, challenged the oppressors, fed the hungry and short-circuited nature to meet people's needs.

Just when they needed him more than ever, he announced his retirement and his successor, the Holy Spirit who would carry on all that He had started. He said it was for their good that he left the stage. The God, who is also human and in body, had to step aside so that the Holy Spirit would be sent to continue His work of establishing the Kingdom.

How does He do this?

- ✚ The Holy Spirit lives in every believer in Christ as Lord. As soon as one accepts Christ's Lordship over their lives, the fullness of God in the person of the Holy Spirit comes to live in them. We oft meet believers who think we don't have the Holy Spirit because we don't practice our faith in the same manner as them. Bambi, they just don't know this fact and need to be taught well.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit then uses us to accomplish' our assignments from Jesus. In Acts 1:8, Jesus assured us that we will be effective witnesses in the power of the Holy Spirit. A witness is one who testifies of what he/she has seen, heard, and generally experienced. We must always tell out our testimonies to the world.

This morning I was listening to a testimony song by one of the popular gospel artistes and it shows a distorted trend. From that song, it seemed like if you didn't come to Kampala from the village on the back of a truck, you have no testimony! It seemed to suggest that if in Kampala you have not built your own house and you don't drive, then you too have no testimony. But look; having an encounter with Jesus who forgives and changes our live is the greatest testimony. And this is the witness that is honored by the Holy Spirit who convicts people and draws them to Jesus. One day we went preaching with the young people to Makindu and an old lady who got saved asked the young preacher man for his

name so she can tell others who it is that saved her. He exclaimed, 'It is Jesus that saved you, not me'! It's Jesus by His Spirit who convicts and saves.

- ✚ He causes people who live according to the standards of the world to realize that they are guilty. Such are guilty of unbelief. They know that it is the right thing to believe in the son of God in order to be saved, but they don't and that way they are guilty of sin (James 4:17). Whoever knows that salvation is in no other name but Jesus and has never committed his/her life to Him is living in disobedience and therefore sin.

- ✚ He also convinces people that they are guilty of not living a righteous life. You know, there are people who say Jesus was righteous just because he is God. But the Spirit he gives helps believers to live a righteous life. So there is no excuse on anyone's part; all can be righteous. Those who have not accepted Jesus into their lives don't have the Holy Spirit in them and can't live righteously. The Christian life is both difficult and easy because it is the life of God. It's difficult because only God can live His life. But it's easy because God, by His Spirit lives His life through us.

- ✚ Those who ally with Satan, the god of this age, partake of his judgment. The Holy Spirit makes Satan's judgment plain to the world. Those that stay in the company and service of Satan do so at their own risk. Even demons (spiritual agents) tremble at the presence of Jesus. In this country we are not short of examples of people that have faced judgment with Satan as they serve him out rightly. You will recall a man that came here and stood on one of the city's hills ridiculing the word of God, the Bible as fake. When he went back to his country, he never lived to see the sun in Uganda another time.
Satan was already judged and whoever does not have the Son of God faces the same judgment unless they turn away from sin to Christ the savior.

It is my sincere prayer that all present here would not be judged with Satan but run into the name of Jesus, having been convicted of sin, righteousness and judgment.