

Ministries of Jesus Christ today.

Today we will consider several ministries of Jesus Christ as He is operating in and through us in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Christ the Holy Spirit is working in marvelous ways all over the world. There is a mighty house church movement in China and about 40 million Chinese are now believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Even in Indonesia several million people have become believers in East and Central Java the last 40 years. Sixty percent of the Korean Armed Forces are believers in Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples before he returned to heaven as recorder in John 14:15-18:

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

"He lives with you and will be in you"

This is referring to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jesus working in and through us as Master and Lord. The Lordship of Christ remains words until the Holy Spirit comes and introduces us into the fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ, and an understanding of the mighty work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross. Then the cross is not a place of tragedy but becomes a mighty place of liberation, renewal and energy.

Christ the Liberator.

Christ the Holy Spirit convicts of sin in order to liberate. The Holy Spirit never shows your sin without showing you the Savior. Repentance and Rejoicing go together in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit brings us to the Cross. God has only one place where He blesses the sinner and that is at the cross. Not the cross of the dead Savior, but the Cross of the Living Savior. At the cross the glorified Lord applies the cleansing blood and sets us free from the curse of sin, free from Condemnation as it written in Romans 8:1, **"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18,

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Where there is freedom there is great joy.

After the Dani tribe in Central Papua became believers on the Lord Jesus Christ they would dance for several hours prior to starting their worship service. There was great joy because they realized their sins were forgiven and they would spent eternity in heave. I was in Serawak, Malaysia several years ago ministering with the Gereja Injil Borneo. During the song service the believers would also be dancing for joy and they danced

through the door onto the streets and back into the church. There was great joy because they were set free by Jesus Christ, free from condemnation.

John 8:32, 36,

**"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

Galatians 5:1,

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Christ is our true liberator today.

Christ the Renewer.

2 Corinthians 5:17,

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

We have a beautiful example of the meeting of the Savior with the woman caught in the act of adultery.

John 8:1-12

"But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Pharisees and teachers of the Law were always putting people right. The Teachers of the Law were the Doctors of Theology. Pharisees, very conservative, Keepers of the Law. Correcting all who were wrong.

So they brought this woman to Jesus and made her stand before the group.

The woman had committed sin and was now being exploited by the Pharisees for their own end. She was in big trouble! About ready to be stoned to death as the law demanded. She was dragged to the temple and became an exhibit. **No grace, no love, no mercy and no forgiveness.**

The Lord never looked at the woman. He spared her another burden. He kept writing something on the ground. Then He simply said, "He is without sin, cast the first stone". Again Jesus looked down and wrote on the ground. When they heard this, they all left. They had actually become blind. ALL WERE GUILTY AND LIVING IN SIN, AND THUS NOT QUALIFIED TO JUDGE AND CONDEMN!

"Has No one condemned you?" "No one sir", said the woman. "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more!" The woman did not plead her case! There was nothing to plead. She stood guilty before the Lord.

Yet she said, "No one, Sir is condemning me", including Jesus.

John 3:17

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

Jesus came to remove the burden. To liberate, to set us free, to renew.

Here we see an example of renewal by Jesus Christ the Renewer. Renewal means you and I are looking at Him with gratitude. Thank you Jesus!

He sets the prisoners free. The lost find their way, the poor may be rich, the haters filled with love, the blind see and the deaf hear, the lazy bums become hardworking and industrious.

"Go and sin no more!" Only Jesus Christ has the Authority and Power to give the ability not to sin. The Holy Spirit in you and I are a source of power, a dynamic in us to enable us to walk and not to sin. This is true renewal.

Christ the Energizer.

A man named Suyanto purchased a brand new BMW car for his family. So he sits behind the steering while his wife and children get behind the car and push it all around town, up and down the hills. Every day he cleans the car and polishes it until it shines. He is so proud of his new BMW.

His family keeps pushing it around having no idea there is a powerful engine underneath the hood. One day a kind hearted friend explains to Suyanto about this powerful engine and shows him how to turn it on with the ignition key. Wow what a happy day of celebration with their new found fortune. Without any effort they drive all over Java and Bali.

Many believers are trying to live the Christ life in their own strength. They get tired and exhausted, frustrated and irritated. They do not realize, and have not yet discovered the energizing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:20

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Christ our energizer Who is able to much more than we can ask or imagine! Praise His wonderful Name!