



LESSON 49

Foundations Curriculum

The Spirit and the Bride Say, Come

By Vanjo Souza

Introduction

The Spirit and the Bride Say, Come

In this forty-ninth lesson, we will study the burning desire of the Spirit and of the bride for the return of Jesus. We will see that, like a loving and caring bridegroom, the Lord Jesus wants to bring us, His bride, to the best place; He wants us to be with Him, to see the glory that God has given Him.

We have seen how the Spirit was present in the beginning, from creation; how He accompanied every act of God in the history of man; how He was present in the history of Israel and in the founding of the Church; how He accompanied the apostles and the church of the early days; and how He accompanies us to this day.

It is the Holy Spirit of God who gives us life to remain faithful to the Lord. This Spirit will be present at the consummation of the ages. He, more than anyone, longs for that day to come, for the Lord to return and take His blessed bride.

We see, in the book of John, Jesus saying:

He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

John 16:14 (NKJV)

This has been happening over the last 2,000 years! The Spirit has been receiving from Jesus and communicating it to us. One of the things the Spirit has communicated to us is that the Lord Jesus desires that we know the glory that He has and all that He has known since before the foundation of the world. Like a loving and caring bridegroom, the Lord Jesus wants to bring us, His bride, to the best place.

Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:24 (NKJV)

In light of these facts, it is worth asking: are we counted among these?

Jesus expresses to the Father His desire that we, those the Father gave Him, be with Him, and behold, and enjoy, and testify of the glory He has had since before the foundation of the world.

The Spirit knows the Bridegroom and knows that place from which He came, having come from there, from the Father. The Spirit works to convince the bride to hasten toward that place. He desires that the Lord Jesus return to gather His redeemed ones, and He is preparing the Church for that glorious day. He is adorning the beloved bride for the marriage of the Lamb. The true and prudent bride longs for that day.

Not loving the Lord's return is a serious sign that our "lamp is going out" and that we have no oil to refill it. One of the evidences that we are filled with the Spirit is this longing for the Lord's return. It is time to "buy" oil! It is time to be filled with the Spirit. It is time to desire that Jesus return.

What great glory there will be on that day when the Lord returns! To see every knee bow before the Lion of Judah, and every tongue, in every language, confess that He, Jesus Christ, is Lord!

There will be all the spiritual powers, and also all the "great ones" of the earth who today terrorize humanity. All prostrate, acknowledging that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! The peoples of the earth will mourn, and the bride will rejoice! Hallelujah! You must ask yourself: "Do I long for that day?"

How I long for that day! How I wait for that day! How homesick I am for my homeland!

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Jesus declared to the Father that we are not of this world, just as He is not of this world, and that because we belong to Him, the world will hate us. This assurance awakens within us a growing longing to be at home in our Father's house and an eager expectation of the day we will meet our beloved Bridegroom.

It is the presence of the Spirit in us that makes the Church, the blessed bride of the Lamb, long for the return of the Beloved to reign with Him in glory forever and ever! It is the Holy Spirit who makes us long for our Heavenly Homeland.

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 3:20–21 (NKJV)

When we have this understanding, and this truth beats within us — that our homeland is in heaven, that we do not belong to this world — then, within us, that sense grows of being a pilgrim, a stranger in a land that is not our own, and we desire to return to our homeland. He makes us desire the Father's house. Jesus said:

*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.*

John 14:2 (NKJV)

It is the Spirit who makes this world, which seems so bright in people's eyes, become so despicable in ours.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

No imagination, however creative, can conceive of these greatnesses and this glory that God has reserved for His own. When a child of God allows the Holy Spirit, who dwells in him, to make this hope overflow, the world must lose its brightness. Sometimes I feel troubled when I see brothers and sisters, people in the church, anxious about this life, worried about this world, insecure, needing some earthly security, with grandiose plans for this world — and I find myself thinking: could it be that the Spirit has not revealed to them those things that never entered into the heart of man? Do they not desire those things?

We must love the Lord's return. The Spirit works to produce in us this desire for the Lord's return. This is reserved for those who love His coming, and it is the Spirit who makes us love the return of our Beloved Lord! Paul, when he was already prepared to be beheaded, said this:

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)

Ask yourself these questions:

Do I love the Lord's return?

Do I desire that He return?

Am I waiting for Him?

Is there expectation in my heart?

As it is written, it is the Spirit who makes us prefer “to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord”:

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV)

These are statements that sometimes go unnoticed by the children of God. Paul is saying: “I would rather be absent from the body and be present with the Lord.” Would you rather be absent from the body, or does death terrify you? Would you rather be with the Lord, or would you rather put down roots here on this earth and remain in it?

It is the Spirit who leads us to consider any and every tribulation as “light and momentary.” This happens because, through the Spirit, we behold the eternal things, which cannot be seen.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (NKJV)

How necessary it is that we ask: “Where are our eyes? Are we looking at the things that are seen?” If we look only at the things that are seen, the tangible things, we will be troubled. It is necessary that, whatever we suffer here on this earth, we keep our eyes turned toward eternity. Then any and every tribulation will be light and momentary, because we will be beholding what is eternal.

When the Spirit leads us to behold the eternal, He causes us to count our life as of no value to ourselves, and to desire to glorify Christ in our mortal body, whether by life or by death. In other words, it does not matter whether we live or die, because we belong to the Lord. This confidence, this security — so simple, yet so firm — is produced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and by this cry of the Holy Spirit for us to return to our Father's house.

But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24 (NKJV)

We exist for this, and if in this labor, in this effort, we die, our life cannot be precious in our own eyes, because we have a reward, we have an eternity that awaits us.

It is this Spirit who leads us to consider that we should glorify Christ in our body, even through death, as Paul affirmed:

According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:20 (NKJV)

The Song of Solomon, besides recounting a true and real story, a romance between a man and a woman, is also a picture of Jesus and the Church. The Bridegroom fights His battles for us, and He calls us to accompany Him.

Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, With me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, From the top of Senir and Hermon, From the lions' dens, From the mountains of the leopards.

Song of Solomon 4:8 (NKJV)

The bride is not afraid to accompany Him and shares with Him in His battles, even if it is on the “mountains of the leopards” and in the “lions' dens.”

The important thing is to understand that He did not call us to a quiet, tranquil life. He promised us peace, but not tranquility. When someone asks me, "Vanjo, is everything calm?" I say: Calm, almost never; at peace, always.

Jesus assured us that in the world we would have tribulation. There is no way to avoid it. There are lions' dens, there are mountains of leopards, there are the Lord's battles, and the bride needs to be encouraged, challenged to wage these battles with Him.

God the Father has sealed us with this Holy Spirit! This seal is the guarantee, the pledge of our redemption, so that on that glorious day we will be taken up from the earth, meet the beloved Bridegroom in the air, and descend with Him to reign over the earth!

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (NKJV)

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

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)

That is why the Spirit and the Bride say: COME!

It is impossible for someone who is a dwelling place of that Spirit not to say: come, Jesus! If your heart does not burn for this, you need to begin to worry. You are not of this earth, not of this world, and if you do not desire to return to your Father's house, if you do not desire this wedding with your Bridegroom, something is very wrong with your spirit and your conscience.

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

In these difficult times, such complicated, confusing times, of political, economic, financial, and social insecurity, of violation of the good, with so much perversion, so much iniquity, we need to be comforted and to rejoice in this expectation of the Lord's return. Paul goes so far as to say:

rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (NKJV)

In times of tribulation, we need to be patient. To do so, we must persevere in prayer and find joy in hope. In the New Testament, hope always points toward eternity.

How many times in my life the only reason I had for joy was to think: I am going to see God, one day I will see the Lord. What comfort this brought and still brings to my heart, in the midst of

anguish, afflictions, tribulations, temptations, provocations — knowing that one day I will be free from all of this! One day I will see God. I will return to my place, I will return to my Father, I will return to my Bridegroom, I will return to my homeland, to my home.

This truth comforts us and brings us joy. We need to detach from this world, which carries the scent of Adam, of sin, and of death.

The Spirit came from heaven, and He brings us the scent of the Bridegroom, the fragrance of the Bridegroom; He brings us longings for that place which eye has not seen, ear has not heard, and which has never entered into the heart of man. Let the Spirit produce within you this burning desire to see the Bridegroom.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV)

What an extraordinary resource we have! In the midst of persecutions, sorrows, and struggles, the comfort of knowing that one day a trumpet will sound, the Lord will descend, the dead will rise, and we who remain, or those who remain, will be caught up and will meet the Lord in the air.

Blessed be our beloved Lord! The Spirit says come. I say come. You say come. The bride says come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

REVIEW OF THE CONTENT

In this forty-ninth lesson, we studied the longing that the Spirit and the bride have for the return of Jesus. We saw that we must love the Lord's return and that the Spirit works to produce in us this desire for Him to return. We were encouraged to examine whether our eyes are on eternity, whether we desire our return to the Father's house.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** Is the same cry of the Spirit in your heart: Come, Jesus?
- 02** Can someone be filled with the Spirit and not desire the Lord's return?
- 03** Do you set aside time to meditate on the meeting with Jesus, the Bridegroom of the Church?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

Foundations Curriculum — Lesson 49

contato@fundamentos.me | fundamentos.me