

# The Lion, Serpent and Tongue (Part 1)

*Acts 27: 27 – 43; 28:1 - 10*

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** Have you ever been on a cruise ship before? If so, what was your favourite/worst cruise experience?

**Aim of today's discussion:** to understand the personhood of the Holy Spirit and learn how to have fellowship, partnership and intimacy with Him.

## **Introduction:**

- The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or influence. He has personal attributes and characteristics, for example:
  - He has a MIND (Rom 8:27)
  - He has a WILL (1 Cor. 12:11)
  - He has EMOTIONS (Rom 15:30; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:30)
  - He COMFORTS (Acts 9:31)
  - He SPEAKS (Heb 3:7; 1 Tim 4:1)
  - He TEACHES (1 Cor. 2:13)
  - He can be GRIEVED (Eph 4:30)
  - He can be INSULTED (Heb 10:29)
  - He can be RESISTED (Acts 7:51)
  - He can be LIED to (Acts 5:1-11)

- The Holy Spirit wants to have **fellowship, partnership and intimacy** with us.
- How can we have fellowship, partnership, and intimacy with the Holy Spirit?
  1. **Humility** – we must learn to humble ourselves and deal with our “me, myself and I”. Our soul only focusses on our desires and needs. The Spirit focus on the unseen – the desires of God. We must learn to strip off the pride and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit - to love the things He loves and hate the things He hates.
  2. **Holiness** – we need to learn to hallow the names of God and worship Him. Our priority is to minister to the Lord in everything we do. As we bring our cares to him, we will receive our strength from God.

### **Vision from God – A Sailing ship**

- Ps Jono saw a vision from God about a sailing ship that has white sails made of thin muslin cloth.
- When the strong wind comes, the muslin cloth was not strong enough and it split. Therefore, the ship is not moving effectively.
- The Holy Spirit wants to thicken our sails. He is encouraging us to go deeper, get stronger and draw our strength from Him so that we can catch the wind of the Spirit.

### **The Lion**

- Jesus has been revealed in the book of Revelation as the Lion of Judah.
- The devil is the counterfeit. He prowls around like a roaring lion. He does everything to lie to us, causing fear to people. But when the Lion of Judah began to roar, the power of God is released, and something will happen.

### **The Tongue (Acts 28:4)**

- Paul was bitten by the snake as he was building a fire. When there is fire, we must watch out for snake.

## ***The Tongue of the Serpent***

- The serpent's tongue twists the truth.
  - It **accuses**;
  - it **brings** back the past;
  - it **condemns**;
  - and it brings **death**.
- The devil wants to bring back the shame and hold us back.
- When we have unforgiveness, the devil can use it against us, and it can cut off relationships we have with one another. We need to learn to grow past the hurts.
- Paul overcomes the serpent's tongue by praising God (1 Tim 1:12). The Holy Spirit has given us strength to do his work. The lifegiving Spirit is living in us.

### QUESTION:

1. How does the understanding of the Holy Spirit as a person affect our daily walk with him? What should we do to be more attentive to His voice, emotion, and guidance?
2. If ministering to the Lord is our first responsibility, what kind of change should we make to bring alignment in our lives?
3. Paul overcomes the serpent's tongue by praising God. Share your experience on how you overcame the serpent's tongue with one another.

### Things you can do:

1. Think of a time when you felt "taken out" by the enemy and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where it started. Do not be surprised if you uncover a lie! Write the truth down.
2. Take 30 mins today to minister to the Lord. Spend sometimes in His presence by worshipping Him and reading the Bible. Journal your thoughts.