

A KAIROS MOMENT - THE STORY OF LAZARUS

The Holy Spirit is the one who initiates the work, preparing the ground. For example, in Genesis 1, the Holy Spirit was brooding over the waters before God spoke. Luke 4 tells us that Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

John 11:1-44 in which Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead gives a complete illustration of this dynamic.



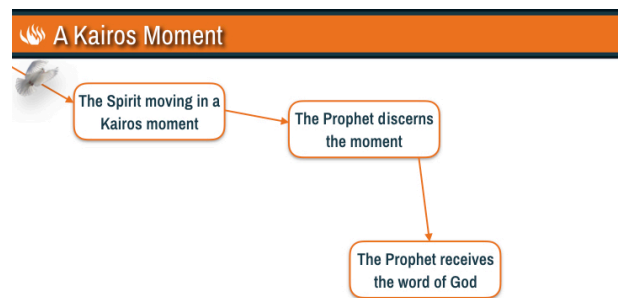
John 11:1-3 The Holy Spirit was working

Lazarus was ill, and the sisters sent word to Jesus. This is in a context of a loving supportive relationship between Jesus and that family, which is a fruit of the Spirit. The family of God also provides such a context, so we can also expect the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, but more of that later. Let's focus on Jesus for now.



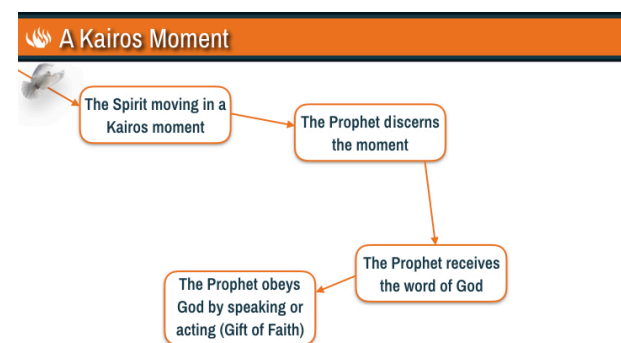
John 11:4-7 The Prophet discerned the moment

Firstly He stated the illness would not end in death. Then, to get in step with the Holy Spirit, He waited two days before setting off. Don't be concerned about the word "prophet" in the diagram. In this context it refers to whoever hears from God in that moment; it could be anybody: Jesus, your church leader, or you. Whoever learns to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, developing the fruit, the gifts, and the authority, can be that "prophet" in the kairos moment.



John 11:4, 7-15 The Prophet receives the word of God

Jesus received a word of knowledge, which is an empowerment gift of the Holy Spirit.

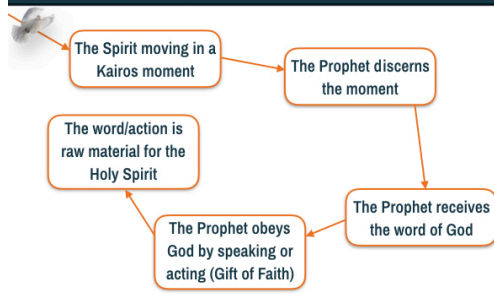


John 11:11-15 The Prophet obeys God by speaking or acting (Gift of Faith)

Jesus obeyed this word of knowledge by telling the disciples what He is going to do, then they all set off to do it.

A KAIROS MOMENT - THE STORY OF LAZARUS (contd.)

A Kairos Moment

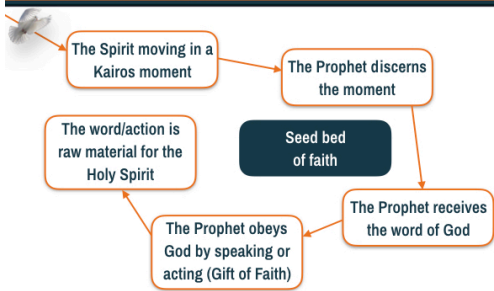


John 11:11-15 The word/action is raw material for the Holy Spirit to work

- ◆ Jesus declaring the situation would not end in death
- ◆ Jesus getting in step with the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Jesus stating that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead

These provided the raw material for the Holy Spirit to work with.

A Kairos Moment



John 11:21-27, 39-44 Through the Holy Spirit, the raw material interacts with a seed bed of faith

In verses 21-27 Martha makes two amazing statements of faith:

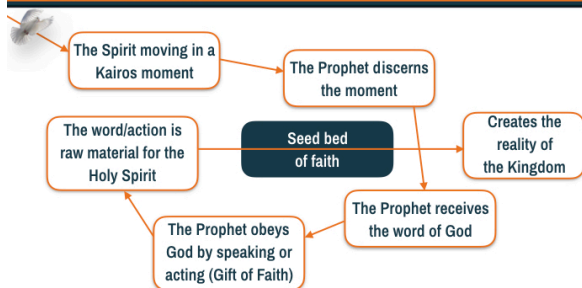
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask” (v21-22)

“I believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” (v27)

Statements are one thing, but the real test of faith is obedience in rolling away the stone. Martha's faith wobbles, but the townspeople now have the faith to roll away the stone anyhow. This is a reason to be in a team – if one person's faith wobbles, someone else can carry the flame of faith.

Jesus prays, showing that He is cooperating with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit and demonstrating His authority, then He is obedient by calling Lazarus out of the tomb.

A Kairos Moment



John 11:43-44 This creates the reality of the Kingdom - something happens!

Lazarus walks out of the tomb – the Kingdom of God is seen.

So, what about us? Since we need each other to help discern, the process may go back and forth, but the basic dynamic is still there.

In practice, the important thing is to listen to and obey the Holy Spirit, not get hung up about which part of the dynamic is going on, but it is useful to be aware of this dynamic.