

The Help of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Helper
- When it comes to the Christian life - I'm sure we all realize that - our calling in Christ is impossible to accomplish - in the power of our fallen flesh.
- Thankfully for us - the Holy Spirit was sent to Help us - so that we can serve our Savior in the way that we should.
- The proof of my point can be found in the book of Acts - where we learn about the way in which the Holy Spirit helped the Saints of God.
- It's in Luke's account - where we learn about the way in which the Holy Spirit empowered them with spiritual gifts....
- ...and not only that - but - He also provided them with the courage they needed - to endure every persecution.
- The Holy Spirit helped them with the divine wisdom of God - and He also filled their hearts with the Joy of Jesus...
- ...as they learned how to walk in the love of the Lord.

II. Outline

● Points

- Our Helper
- Without debate - the Holy Spirit helped the primitive church - in ways that still amaze us today.

- And with that being the case - I'm happy to inform you that - the Holy Spirit is still here to help those who trust in Jesus Christ.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. ...the Holy Spirit Helps us by Possessing the Church
 2. ...the Holy Spirit Helps us by Protecting the Church
 3. ...the Holy Spirit Helps us by Purifying the Church
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 3...
 - ...where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand the connection between the Holy Spirit - and the church.

III. Possess

● Set up

• Context

- As we make our way to the third chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text back into it's context.
- It was in our last study - when we learned about the way in which the born-again believer is a living stone in the building of God.
- Paul also encouraged believers to become builders - who are building up the building of God - one conversion at a time.
- And with this as the goal - he also challenged us make sure that we're constructing every congregation...
 - ...according to the doctrinal blueprints that the Holy Spirit presented in the New Testament epistles.

- And with this as our goal - we can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit is here to help us accomplish this incredible work.
- Let's consider how Paul put it here in 1st Corinthians 3 - look with me beginning there at verse 16 - where he asked...

● Text

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1Co 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

- The Spirit
 - Here in our text today - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand how the church has become the building - or - the temple of God.
 - Just to be clear - Paul informed the original recipients of this epistle that the Spirit of God was dwelling within them.
 - And what this means is that - the born-again believer is possessed with the Spirit of the living God.
 - And in order to more fully grasp what this means - I should take a moment to point out that...
 - ...the Spirit of God is NOT an impersonal force like gravity - nor is the Spirit of God an mindless energy - like electricity.
 - No - instead - the Spirit of God is the third person of our Creator - Who is a Triune being.
- Holy Spirit
 - To prove my point - let's consider how the Spirit of God was first identified in the creation account found in Genesis chapter 1 - where Moses declared...

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Gen 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- Here in the first two verses of the Bible - we not only find God - engaging in the work of creation...
- ...but - we're also introduced to the Spirit of God - Who was hovering over the face of the waters.
- And as we consider the way that God was creating - - while the Spirit of God was hovering...
- ...we can see that there is some sort of distinction - between God the Father - and the Spirit of God.
- At the same time - I can assure you that there is a unity within the TRIUNITY of the Godhead.
- Trinity
- This was precisely the point that the Lord Jesus was making - in Matthew chapter 28 - where He declared...

Mat 28:18b "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

- According to Jesus - we've been called to baptize the new converts of Christ - in the NAME of the Father - the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- What this means is that - the Father - the Son and the Holy Spirit share the same authority - in the life of the born-again believer.
- And not only that - but - I would also argue that the name of our Triune God is Yahweh.
- That being the case - I can assure you that the Spirit of God Who possess the born-again believer is not an impersonal force...

- ...no - instead - He is the third person of the Triune Godhead - Who has identified Himself as Yahweh.

- He

- Further proof of my point can be found in the 14th chapter of John's gospel account - where the Lord Jesus declared...

Jhn 14:16 "...I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

Jhn 14:17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - referring to the Spirit of truth - with the personal pronouns - He - and Him.
- And what this means is that - the Holy Spirit is NOT an impersonal force like gravity - nor is He a mindless energy - like electricity.
- No - instead - the Holy Spirit is a personal entity Who was sent to Help those who trust in our Lord and Savior - Jesus.
- And it's for this reason that the Lord Jesus prayed to God the Father to send the Holy Spirit to possess us...
- ...so that we might receive the help we need - from the indwelling Spirit of God.

- Dwell

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - there at 1st Corinthians 3 - it's verse 16 - where he asked...

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- Now - in order to better understand Paul's question - it'll help us to know that the word - dwell - was translated from a Greek word...
- ...which was used of those who inhabit a house - - and it was used in reference to those who reside in a residence.
- The same word was also used of those who cohabitate - by occupying the same habitation.
- And as we consider the meaning of this word — in light of Paul's question - he was clearly helping his audience to understand that...
 - ...the Holy Spirit is dwelling within the church - collectively and individually.
- Amplified
- I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 16 - they put it like this...

1Co 3:16 Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually]?

- According to Paul - the Holy Spirit of God has made His home in the church - collectively.
- And while it's true that the Holy Spirit was sent to help us - by enabling us to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...
- ...it's also true that the Spirit of God was sent to help us from within...
- ...by possessing the body of every born-again believer - - so that we can serve our Savior - by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- And what this means is that - the Holy Spirit is literally dwelling within our bodies.

- Individually

- Let's consider how Paul put it - in 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - it's verses 19 and 20 - where he asked...

1Co 6:19 ...do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
 - ...the Holy Spirit not only dwells in the church - as He helps us collectively - here in our Christian congregation...
 - ...but - the Holy Spirit also dwells in us individually - as He empowers us from within.
 - Not only that - but - Paul also challenged us to realize that every believer has the individual responsibility...
 - ...of glorifying God with our body - and our spirit - - which have become the possession of God.
- Possession
 - I like the way that Paul explained in Ephesians chapter 1 - it's vss 13 and 14 where he declared...

Eph 1:13 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,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
 - According to Paul - the Holy Spirit has not only possessed us from within - by sealing us until the day of Redemption...

- ...but - the Holy Spirit has also possessed us - in the sense that every believer has become the purchased possession.
- This was the point that Paul was making - when he informed us that we were bought at a price.
- In other words - the Lord Jesus has purchased us - with the price of his blood.
- And it's at the moment of our conversion - when the born-again believer becomes the purchased possession of God.
- Both/and
- Now - as we consider the way in which the Holy Spirit possesses us collectively - and individually...
- ...it's crucial for every Christian to realize that - the Holy Spirit has a plan to empower each individual...
- ...to become active participants - in the collective community - better known as the local church.
- And while this includes the charismatic gifts that we will learn more about - when we get to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...I wanna take a moment to remind you that - each Christian individually...
- ...has been called to become a living stone - that is being built together - into the temple of the Holy Spirit.

● Application

- Dwelling
- I like the way that Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 2 - it's verses 19 thru 22 where he declared...

Eph 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
Eph 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
Eph 2:22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

- Christian - listen - we can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit possesses us individually.
- At the same time - we must not fail to realize that - He is calling us together - collectively...
- ...so that we can be built up together - into a dwelling place of God - in the Spirit.
- And what this means is that - those who are truly being empowered by the Holy Spirit who possesses us...
- ...will be divinely inspired by the same Spirit - to become believers who are actively involved in our Christian congregation.

● Transition

- Points
- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...
 1. ...the Holy Spirit not only Helps us by Possessing the Church...
 2. ...but - the Holy Spirit also Helps us - by Protecting the Church.
- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the encouragement that Paul presented - here in our text today.
- Let's take another look at 1st Corinthians chapter 3 - beginning again there at verse 16 - where Paul asked...

IV. Protects

● Text

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1Co 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

• The Church

- Now - as we take another look at these verses - we'll do well to consider the warning that Paul was presenting.
- But before we do - I should first remind you that - Paul wasn't referring to the temple there in Jerusalem.
- No - instead - he was referring to those who defile the temple of the church age - in which the Holy Spirit is now dwelling.
- And just to be clear - I should take a moment to remind you that - it was on the day of Pentecost - after the ascension of our Savior...
- ...when the Holy Spirit was first poured out - according to the promise of God the Father.
- And it was for this reason that the Lord Jesus encouraged His disciples - to wait for the arrival of our heavenly Helper.

• Power

- As a matter of fact - it's in Acts chapter 1 - beginning at verse 4 - where Luke writes...

Act 1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

Act 1:5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Act 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Act 1:7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Act 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- According to the Lord Jesus - it was God the Father - Who promised to send the Holy Spirit...
- ...so that our heavenly Helper could indwell - and empower those who trust in Christ - - both individually and collectively.
- And it was on the day of Pentecost - when the Father fulfilled this promise - as the believers there in Jerusalem received the Spirit.
- Luke confirmed this in Acts chapter 2 - where we learn that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
- And in the same chapter - the apostle Peter confirmed the fact that they had received from the Father - the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Peace
- Now - in order to further grasp this promise - we should consider the way that Jesus explained it in John 14 - beginning at verse 23 - He declared...

Jhn 14:23 "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Jhn 14:24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

Jhn 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

Jhn 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- From this - we can see that - those who embrace the gospel of grace - will also become the home of God in the Spirit.
- And as the Father - Son - and Holy Spirit come and make their home - in the heart of the born-again believer...
- ...the Christian can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit was sent to help us keep the word of God...
- ...by providing us with ability to comprehend the word of God.
 - And in this way - the Holy Spirit is actively protecting the church from those who are trying to defile it.
- Defile
 - In order to explain my point - let's take another look at the warning that Paul presented - here in our text today.
 - Look with me again - there at verse 17 - where he declared...

1Co 3:17a If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.
 - Now - that word - defiles - was translated from a Greek word - which can also be rendered - corrupt - or destroy.
 - And when it came to the temple there in Jerusalem - there were several ways that congregates could corrupt - or defile the house of God.
 - If you touched a corpse - or you had a skin diseases like leprosy - you couldn't come to the temple - lest you defile it.
 - If you just gave birth - or you were emitting an abnormal bodily discharge - you couldn't come to the temple - lest you defile it.
 - If you touched - or consumed an unclean animal then - you couldn't come to the temple - lest you defile it.
- Idols

- I should also point out that - those who sacrificed their children to a pagan god like Molech - were ceremonially unclean.
- It's for this reason that they were required to perform purification rituals according to the Levitical law - before they could return to the Temple.
- Not only that - but - those who set up idols in the temple were also guilty of defiling the temple.
- And listen - those who defiled the temple - by entering the sanctuary while still ceremonially unclean...
 - ...would face the penalty of being cut off from the community - according to the instructions of the Levitical law.
 - And in some case - the penalty was capital punishment.
- The Church
 - With all of this in mind - we should take some time to consider what Paul meant - when he declared...

1Co 3:17a If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.
 - Now - remember - we're not talking about the temple - which was there in Jerusalem.
 - No - instead - we're talking about the temple of the church age - which is made up of those who trust in the Lord Jesus.
 - What this means is that the Holy Spirit is here to help us - by protecting us from those who defile our church.
 - And with this as our focus - we should take a moment to consider how a congregation can end up being corrupted...
 - ...by those who are destroying the church - as they defile the disciples of Christ.

- Defilers

- I think Paul put it best in 1st Corinthians chapter 5 - where Paul rebuked them for allowing a backslidden believer - to defile their church.
- It's verse 11 - where Paul declared...

1Co 5:11 I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

- Christian - listen - the born-again believer - who is openly living in sin - should be removed from their fellowship of faith.
- And the reason why is because - those who are defiling the temple of their own bodies - with unrepentant sin...
 - ...are simultaneously defiling others in their Christian congregation - as they destroy the temple of God.
 - That being the case - Paul commanded the Christians there in Corinth to cast the backslidden believer - out of their church...
 - ...so that they might protect their fellowship of faith - from the carnality of that Christian.
- Discipline
 - Now - when we get to 1st Corinthians chapter 5 - we'll spend more time - considering that specific situation.
 - But for now - I simply want to point out that - the Holy Spirit was sent to protect the church...
 - ...by empowering the leaders of each local church - to exercise church discipline - by excommunicating those who defile the temple of God.

- That being the case - we should all be concerned about the state of the church here in the US...
- ...especially after the results of a recent Lifeway Research survey that helps us to see that...
 - ...formal church discipline is uncommon in many congregations.
- Survey
 - The study found that a majority of pastors have never formally disciplined a congregant...
 - ...and only one in six churches has done so within the past year.
 - According to the same survey - 54% of pastors agreed with the statement...
 - "A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior, as far as I know."
 - Not only that - but - 14% of the respondents reported that their church lacks an official policy on church discipline.
 - In light of this survey - we can be sure that there are many pastors who are failing to protect the temple of God...
 - ...from the corruption caused by carnal Christians.
- Destroy
 - With that being the case - I encourage you to realize that - God has promised to destroy those who defiles the temple of God.
 - In other words - those who defile the church with sexually immorality covetousness - idolater - revelry - intoxication - or extortion...
 - ...will find themselves on the receiving end of God the Father's loving correction.

- Remember - the Lord chastens His adopted children - because He loves us.
- And scourges every son whom He has received - as the Holy Spirit protects the purity of every church.
- And it's for this reason that He calls us to keep the temple free from every idol.

● Application

- Separate
- I like the way that Paul put it - in 2nd Corinthians chapter 6 - it's verses 14 thru 18 - where he declared...

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

2Co 6:15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them

And walk among them.

I will be their God,

And they shall be My people."

2Co 6:17 Therefore

"Come out from among them

And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,

And I will receive you."

2Co 6:18 "I will be a Father to you,

And you shall be My sons and daughters,

Says the LORD Almighty."

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...

- ...Christians should not only disfellowship from backslidden believers - who defile the temple of God...
- ...but - we should also avoid the worldly idols that defile the temple of God.
- Not only that - but we should separate ourselves from the influence of unbelievers...
- ...and the reason why is due to the fact that - evil company will always corrupt our commitment to Christ.
- And with this as the goal - we should seek the help of the Holy Spirit - Who is here to protect the church from corruption.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
 1. ...the Holy Spirit not only Helps us by Possessing the Church...
 2. ...and - the Holy Spirit not only Helps us - by Protecting the Church...
 3. ...but - the Holy Spirit also Helps us - by Purifying the Church.
- With this as our focus - let's continue to consider the encouragement that Paul presented - here in our text today.
- Let's take another look at 1st Corinthians chapter 3 - beginning again there at verse 16 - where Paul asked...

V. Purifies

● Text

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1Co 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

- Holy
- Here in the second half of verse 17 - we find Paul - reminding his readers - that the temple of God is holy.
- And just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the word - holy - found there in the middle of verse 17...
 - ...was translated from a Greek word - which was used of that which was used of that which is pure - and sinless.
 - The same word was also used of those who are morally blameless - and ceremonially consecrated.
 - And while it's true that we've all sinned - and we've all fallen short of God's sinless perfection...
 - ...it's also true that the Holy Spirit has made the church holy - through the imputation of Christ's righteousness.
- Sanctified
- Let's consider how Paul put it - in 1st Corinthians chapter 6 - it's verses 9 thru 11 - where he asked...

1Co 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1Co 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- According to Paul - the Spirit of our God is the One Who has washed us - and sanctified us - according to the justification of Jesus.
- And just to be clear about this - it'll help you to know that the word - sanctified - is the verb form of the Greek word - rendered Holy.
- Simply put - the Holy Spirit not only cleanses the Christian from their sins...
- ...but - the Holy Spirit also makes us holy - as we receive the imputation of Christ's righteousness.
- And what this means is that - the born-again believer is positionally holy - by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Helper
- Not only that - but - the Holy Spirit also purifies us practically - by helping us to become more like Jesus.
- Let's consider how Christ Jesus explained it in John chapter 16 - it's beginning at verse 7 - where the Lord declared...

Jhn 16:7 "...I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Jhn 16:8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Jhn 16:9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Jhn 16:10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

Jhn 16:11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Jhn 16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Jhn 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Jhn 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Jhn 16:15 “All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

- According to the Lord Jesus - the Holy Spirit was sent - to help unbelievers to understand their need for Jesus.
- And with this as the goal - He convicts the world of their sin - and their unrighteousness - and the coming judgment of God.
- Not only that - but - the Holy Spirit was also sent to guide believers - according to the doctrinal truths...
 - ...that help us to become - practically - what we've already been made - positionally.
 - What this means is that - the Holy Spirit not only makes us HOLY positionally - but He also helps us to become HOLY - practically.
- How?
 - Now - in order to grasp how the Holy Spirit helps us to become practically holy - by purifying the church - through the process of sanctification...
 - ...we should take some time to consider the way in which the Holy Spirit empowers the born-again believer...
 - ...so that we can produce the fruits of righteousness - for the glory of God.
 - With this as our focus - let's turn in our Bibles to Galatians chapter 5 - and as we make our way to the 5th chapter of Galatians...
 - ...I wanna take a moment to remind you that - the Holy Spirit is dwelling within the body of every believer.
 - And while it's true that the Christian always has access to the purifying power of the Holy Spirit...

- ...it's also true that we can stunt our spiritual growth - by walking in the lusts of the flesh.

● Application

- Walk
- Let's consider the way that Paul explained it - here in Galatians chapter 5 - look with me beginning there at verse 16 - where he declared...

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

Gal 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

Gal 5:21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
 - ...the Christian who fails to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit - will also fail to produce the spiritual fruits of righteousness.

- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian to Walk in the Spirit...
- ...so that we can receive the spiritual strength we need - to crucify the flesh - with its impure passions and desires.
- And with this as the goal - Paul encouraged those who live in the Spirit - to also walk in the Spirit.
- Walking?
 - Christian - listen - those who have become the temple of the Holy Spirit - should also walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - And one reason why is because - our flesh still wants to pursue the lusts of the flesh.
 - Sadly - many Christians continue to engage in the works of the flesh - as they pursue the perverse pleasures of this wicked world.
 - That being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit was sent to help us - by providing us with the power we need...
 - ...so that we can crucify the lusts - that lead us back into a life of sin.
 - Therefore - the Christian who wants to be purified - practically - must walk in the Spirit - each and every day.
- Proof?
 - With this as the goal - we should take a moment to examine our own lives - by asking - am I truly walking in the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - At the same time - we should also consider the question - how can I be certain - that I am being purified - practically?
 - And how can we be sure that we are in fact - producing the fruit of the Spirit?

- With these questions in mind - let's turn in our Bibles - to Ephesians chapter 5 - because - it's in the 5th chapter of Ephesians...
- ...where we find Paul - presenting us with a way to test our walk...
 - ...so that we can make sure that we are being purified - by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Evidence

- Let's consider the way that Paul put it - here in Ephesians chapter 5 - look with me - beginning there at verse 17 - where he declared...

Eph 5:17 ...do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christians in Ephesus to understand that...
 - ...those who want to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit - should continually be - BEING filled with the Spirit.
 - Just to be clear about this - it's important to understand that - - Paul wasn't suggesting that we need MORE of the Spirit WITHIN us.
 - No - instead - Paul was encouraging us to make sure that we're living under the influence of the Holy Spirit - more and more everyday.
 - And so - rather than living under the influence of the spirits of alcohol...
 - ...Paul encouraged us to live under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

- Singing

- Not only that - but - he also presented us with the proof of this influence - by informing us that...
 - ...those who are filled with the Spirit will speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...
 - ...as we sing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord.
 - In other words - those who are living under the influence of the Holy Spirit...
 - ...will be filled with a passion - for singing the praises of the Lord - here within our Christian community.
 - And what this means is that - those who are being purified by the power of the Holy Spirit...
 - ...will develop a spiritual desire - to engage in the corporate praise of our Savior - Jesus.
 - Submitting
 - Not only that - - but - we will also develop a spiritual desire - to serve one another - here in our Christian community.
 - Let's consider again how Paul put it - here in Ephesians chapter 5 - look with me again - beginning there at verse 18 - where he declared...
- Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
- Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
- Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.
- Christian - listen - the believer who is living under the influence of the Holy Spirit - will not only develop a desire to engage in corporate praise...

- ...but - we will also develop a desire to submit to one another - as we serve our Savior - side-by-side.
- And what this means is that - the Christian who is being purified - by the power of the Holy Spirit...
- ...will demonstrate the proof of their purification - through their worshipful participation at church.
- In this way - we are being purified practically here in our Christian congregation - as we submit to one another in the fear of God.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Points

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this study - I encourage you to remember that - we can't accomplish our calling in Christ - Without the help of the Holy Spirit.
- And with that being the case - I encourage you to remember that...
 1. ...the Holy Spirit Helps us by Possessing the Church...
 - ...so that Christians can be empowered to accomplish God's will - both individually - and collectively.
 2. ...the Holy Spirit also Helps us - by Protecting the Church...
 - ...so that those who might defile the church - can receive the loving correction that they need.
 3. ...and finally - the Holy Spirit Helps us - by Purifying the Church...
 - ...so that those who have become positionally holy - and also become practically holy...

- ...as the Holy Spirit helps us to become more and more like Jesus.
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