

4-14-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Holy Spirit's Work in Us, pt-1

Purpose: Provoke people to allow the Holy Spirit to change us to be like Jesus, give us spiritual gifts and help us in our struggles.

Truth for Today: The Holy Spirit wants to change us to be like Jesus, give us spiritual gifts and help us in our struggles.

Text: 2 Corinthians 3: 16-18

Topic: Holy Spirit, Sanctification, Spiritual Gifts, Hardship

Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Series Purpose Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us supernaturally using spiritual gifts.

The Holy Spirit's Work in Us...pt-1

- I. The Great Commission, our #1 job, [Mark 16:15 (NCV)] Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone." 195 countries, 8 billion people. We can't go everywhere and tell everyone, but we can partner with people reaching their nation for Jesus. E.g., Mexico ministries, Larry Myers, scope of the work. What would you do if someone gave you \$100k to reach the people of Mexico. Mary Lou
- II. Introduction (Baptism, Sat and SAM2)
 - A. Pics grandkids
 - B. Review: Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.
 1. Today we'll answer the question, What does the Holy Spirit want to do in us? This is based on the premise, when we are saved, God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. [Eph. 1:13 (NLT)]... when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit [1 Cor. 6:19 (NLT)] your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you. If the Holy Spirit lives inside me, what does He want to do in me?
 - C. Truth for Today: (1) The Holy Spirit wants to change us to be like Jesus, (2) Give us spiritual gifts and (3) Help us in our struggles.
 - D. Title: The Holy Spirit's Work in Us...pt-1
- III. The Holy Spirit wants to change us to be like Jesus, i.e., character, values, priorities
 - A. [2 Cor. 3:16-18 (NIV)] But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away...¹⁸ And we all...are being transformed (*metamorphosis*) into his image... which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NCV)...we are being changed to be like him. Christlikeness, becoming like Jesus, is the goal of the Christian life.³
 - B. The process of sanctification, becoming like Christ. [1 Thes. 5:23 (ESV)]... may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely (NLT) make you holy in every way
 1. Def. sanctify: A lifelong process after salvation of being set apart from our sin and worldly ways and living a holy life, set apart unto God.¹ Stop sinning and live a life to please God. The same God who saved me can change me if I'm willing.

2. Sanctification is a war in our soul between good and bad, [Galatians 5:17 (NLT)]
The **sinful nature** wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the **Spirit wants**...These two forces are constantly fighting each other...]
 - C. E.g., What does He want to change in us? [Gal. 5:19–23 (NLT)] When you follow **the desires of your sinful nature**, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that **anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.** ²² But the **Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control...]
 - D. We have a choice; we can say yes or no to the Holy Spirit as He tries to convict and change us. We've got to cooperate with Him, i.e., say yes. Saying no grieves the Holy Spirit. [Eph. 4:30 (NLT)] And **do not bring sorrow to (ESV grieve) God's Holy Spirit** by the way you live...] i.e. don't hurt God's feelings by bad choices. **Test Adak**
 - E. **Prayer:** [Ephesians 4:20–24 (NLT)]... **throw off your old sinful nature** and your **former way of life**...²³ Instead, **let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.** ²⁴ **Put on your new nature, created to be like God**—truly righteous and holy.]
- IV. The Holy Spirit wants to give us spiritual gifts to help and reach people for God
- A. [1 Cor. 12:4–11 (NLT)] There are different kinds of **spiritual gifts**, but **the same Spirit is the source of them all**...⁷ **A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.**] and be a useful tool to reach people for Christ.
 1. This was written to believers, not just apostles and leaders and applies to us just like any other Bible verse. God has given all of us, **ME**, a spiritual gift(s) and Paul encourages us to seek the gift most needed at the moment. [1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)]...**earnestly desire the spiritual gifts**...]
 - B. [Vs. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give **wise advice** (NKJV *the word of wisdom*] e.g. supernatural problem solving, e.g., Solomon baby.
 - C. [Vs 8 to another the same Spirit gives a message of **special knowledge** (NKJV *the word of knowledge*] I.e., God reveals something to us we don't already know,e.g. Jesus and woman at the well, 'you've had 5 husbands'.
 - D. [Vs 9 The same Spirit gives **great faith** to another, to someone else the one Spirit gives the **gift of healing**, ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to **perform miracles**,] E.g., [Acts 8:6–7 (NLT)] Crowds listened intently to Philip (*a deacon*)...to hear his message and see the **miraculous signs** he did. ⁷ Many **evil spirits were cast out**, screaming as they left their victims. And **many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed.**] Is it possible this can happen today? If you say no, why not? I say yes because it's in the Bible and the Holy Spirit lives in us like He did Philip.
 - E. [Vs 10 and another the ability to **prophecy**. [1 Cor. 14: 3 (NLT)] But one who prophesies **strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts** them.] [Acts 21:8–9 (NLT)]...Philip the Evangelist...⁹...had four unmarried daughters who had the **gift of prophecy**. Acts 2:17 (NLT) 'In the **last days**,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. **Your sons and daughters will prophecy.**] Entire message later.

- F. [Vs. 10 He gives someone else the ability to **discern** whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit.] [2 Cor. 11:13 (NLT) These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who **disguise** themselves as apostles of Christ.]
- G. [Vs 10 another person is given the ability to **speak in unknown languages (ESV various kinds of tongues)**, while another is given the ability to **interpret** what is being said.] We'll do an entire message on this misunderstood subject.
- H. Spiritual gifts are from God to be sought, developed and used. I want them, do you?
 - 1. **Prayer:** Holy Spirit show me what spiritual gifts you have given me and show me how and when to use it.

V. Conclusion:

- A. The Holy Spirit wants to give us peace, strength, comfort, and hope in times of difficulty and struggles.
 - 1. Life is hard at times, e.g., financial pressure, family problems, health problems, problems at work, etc. But no matter what we face God the Holy Spirit wants to help us. Jesus, [John 16:7 (ESV)]...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 go, **I will send him to you.**] When we're facing trouble the Holy Spirit wants to help us.
- B. [Romans 15:13 (ESV) **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.** Eph. 3:16 (NLT)I pray that...he will empower you with **inner strength** through his **Spirit**]
- C. How do we allow the Holy Spirit to help us find joy, peace, hope and strength? (1) God's Word, the Bible, is a living book for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. **LaNell cancer, "It is well"** (2) Spend some time alone with God in prayer telling Him how you feel. Ask the Holy Spirit for the joy, peace, hope and strength **Can't pray and play with phone.** (3) Seek people to lay hands on you in prayer for spiritual impartation of the Holy Spirit. Jesus to children, [Matthew 19:15 (NLT) he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.]
- D. **Prayer** If you're facing despair, difficulty or struggles the Holy Spirit wants to give you joy, peace, hope and strength.

VI. Response

- A. Souls

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In *Harper's Bible dictionary* (1st ed., p. 904). Harper & Row.
2. Jenney, T. P. (2000). *Sanctify, Sanctification*. In D. N. Freedman, A. C. Myers, & A. B. Beck (Eds.), *Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible* (p. 1165). W.B. Eerdmans.
3. Lowery, D. K. (1985). *2 Corinthians*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 562). Victor Books.

VIII. Supplemental Material

- A. Romans 2:29 (NLT) No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, **it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit.** And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.
- B. A lifelong process after salvation whereby we become consecrated, set apart/ holy to God.²
- C. Romans 8:6 (NLT) So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But **letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.]**
- D. Last time we learned who the Holy Spirit is and what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit. In future messages we'll talk about what the Holy Spirit wants to do through us using the Book of Acts as a model.