

I. Sealed with the Spirit

- A. Ephesians 1:13-14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (ESV).
- B. Romans 8:15-17 “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” (ESV)
 - 1. Every apologetic book in print can’t do a lick of good for the skeptic or the doubter without the inner witness of the Spirit!
- C. The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer (Rom 8:9-11).
 - 1. Any attempt to create classes of believers on the basis of experience is an abuse of the doctrine of the Spirit’s work.

II. Clothed with Power

- A. Luke 24:29 “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.**” (ESV).
- B. Acts 1:4-5 “And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.” (ESV).
- C. Acts 1:8 “But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (ESV).

- D. Acts 2:4 "And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." (ESV).
- E. There is an encounter with the Spirit of God that is distinguishable from justification.
 - 1. Pentecostal theology has called this "the baptism with the Holy Spirit," and described it as a "subsequent event" to salvation.
 - 2. 4 times after Acts 2:4, Luke describes a person or persons being "filled with the Spirit" for the first time (Acts 8:17; 9:17; 10:44-48; 19:1-6).
 - 3. A meal of barely cakes, milk, and honey spread that Peter ate 2,000 years ago can't nourish me today!
 - 4. This encounter with the Spirit of God is not a premium subscription to Christianity. It is part of God's plan for every believer! It is the promise of the Father.
- F. Pentecostal theology also describes this experience as being accompanied by an "initial, physical evidence."

III. Aldersgate Street

- A. In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation: And an assurance was given me, that He had taken away *my sins, even mine*, and saved *me* from the law of sin and death. - May 14, 1738 (John Wesley's Journal Entry).

IV. What kind of Power?

- A. John 21:18-19 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." (ESV)

1. What change took place between Peter's denial of Jesus at the rooster crow and his willingness to die for Jesus as an older man?
2. Might it be the result of Pentecost?

B. This is why Jesus had told His disciples, "It is better that I go because I will send you another helper. When he comes he will..."

C. In John 14-16 we read all about what the Holy Spirit will do "when He comes." The issue is, when He comes!

D. Colossians 1:24-29 "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." (ESV).

1. Pursue the spiritual disciplines (the means of grace) and ask the Spirit to encounter you in them.