

Empowered

Life is better w/ the Holy Spirit - January 29, 2023

John 3:6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

By receiving Jesus as Lord, our spirit is made “alive” by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 Now I’ll send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes & fills you (*clothes, fully equips*) w/ power from heaven.

*****Ray - Luke 4*****

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere...*

3 ways the Holy Spirit affects & impacts:

- 1. Guides & directs us.***
- 2. Empowers us for service & to be a witness.***
- 3. Helps us to produce growth, holiness & the purity of God.***

How do we stir up His power in our lives, let Him out, let His fire flow in our families, our relationships, at our work, & in our church?

Do you think all believers are entitled to, & should expect & seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Acts 4:31 AMP When they had prayed, the place where they were meeting together was shaken, a sign of God’s presence; & they were all filled w/ the Holy Spirit & *began* to speak the word of God w/ boldness & courage.

After the apostles receive the Holy Spirit, they have a passion that lasts a lifetime & empowers them to speak the word of God boldly!

***As we pray & seek the presence of the Holy Spirit,
we’re able to experience His presence & power in our lives.***

Most of us are saved, but why so little manifestation of His power?

This Holy Spirit experience is distinct from & subsequent to the experience of the new birth.

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God’s message, they sent Peter & John there. 15 As soon as

they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. 16 The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter & John laid their hands upon these believers & they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44 As Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. 45 The Jewish believers who came w/ Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles too. 46 For they heard them speaking in other tongues & praising God. 47 Then Peter asked, “Can anyone object to their being baptized now that they’ve received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” 48 So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

Acts 19:1 ...Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. 2 “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. They replied, “The baptism of John.” 4 Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” 5 As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, & they spoke in other tongues & prophesied.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is seen by the initial physical sign of praying in the Spirit/speaking w/ other tongues as the Spirit of God gives you utterance or vocal expression.

****Ray’s personal testimony****

3 benefits of being filled w/ the Holy Spirit & praying in the Spirit

1. IT BUILDS UP MY INNER MAN.

1 Corinthians 14:4a He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself (*builds himself up or is strengthened personally*)

Jude 20 You beloved building yourself up on most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit

The inner man is the spirit & soul. When you pray in tongues, you edify/strengthen/build up your inner man.

How does that work? (for me)

In conjunction with other spiritual disciplines, building the inner man:

** Brings the Spirit in ascendancy over flesh, often connecting with spiritual gifts (word of wisdom/knowledge and power gifts)*

** Lessens the intimidation that people often experience in witnessing and public testimonies.*

2. IT BRINGS REVEALATION KNOWLEDGE & THE ABILITY TO BETTER HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT.

1 Corinthians 14:2 He who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Praying in the spirit is a language only God understands. We're praying by the power of the Holy Spirit. This Gift is given by God. The Father wants to share divine secrets w/ us. We receive revealed knowledge through the Holy Spirit. When we pray in the Spirit on a regular basis, we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit to receive revelation knowledge & things that cannot be known by the natural mind alone.

1 Corinthians 14:13 let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

Praying in the Spirit releases our spirit & the works of the Holy Spirit. As we pray in the Spirit, we also pray for the ability to interpret what's being said. When I'm praying in the Spirit, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. When we pray in the Spirit, our minds are not involved, so we can pay attention to our spirit.

How does that work? (for me)

Proverbs 20:5 NKJV Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but the man of understanding will draw it out. *(for people & the Spirit)*
Praying in in the Spirit is like "priming the pump."

Example: pump at grandparent's beach house

3. IT ALLOWS ME TO PRAY THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD.

Romans 8:26 The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. We don't know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us w/ groanings which cannot be uttered.

This is one of the greatest tools of the believer: intercessory prayer in the Spirit. In our needs or weaknesses, the Holy Spirit wants to help us pray what's important. He can pray through us w/ sounds that cannot be spoken in articulate speech (English).

We're praying for things that our natural minds don't even know about.

Romans 8:27 He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

When we pray in the spirit, we're always praying the will of God!

*The Holy Spirit works with people to accomplish God's will
In the Old Testament, the Spirit came on people to accomplish God's will. The Spirit worked through humans.*

*What is our weakness? We don't know what to pray as we ought.
The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us as we speak in groanings or utterances too deep for words in our limited knowledge and vocabulary.
The great advantage for all Christians, especially new converts.*