

Walking in the Spirit

October 27-28, 2012

Gary Post

- I. Running in Cement
 - A. Big AI
 - B. Fighting Battles We Don't Have to Fight
 - C. Why Is It So Hard?

"Religion' tries to get us to access grace through works... 'Religion' will kill you, because it will try to get you to earn what we've already been given freely." Tony Evans, Victory in Spiritual Warfare
- II. What Is the Holy Spirit's Role in Our Lives?
 - A. The Holy Spirit Draws us to Christ
(John 6:44; I Cor. 2:14)
 - B. The Holy Spirit Regenerates Us and Makes Us New Creations
(Titus 3:4-6; II Cor. 5:17)
 - C. The Holy Spirit Indwells Us and Seals Us as Our Guarantee
(II Cor. 1:21-22)
 - D. The Holy Spirit Comforts Us in Hardship and Difficulty
(Romans 15:13; Phil. 4:6-7)
 - E. The Holy Spirit Illuminates the Word of God to Us
(Corinthians 2:12-14; John 14:26)
 - F. Holy Spirit Empowers Our Prayers to Accomplish God's Purposes
(Romans 8:26-27; II Cor. 10:3-5)

"Your prayers will never do anything except release God's power for God's purposes. On the other hand, your prayers will always release God's power for God's purposes." Jennifer K. Dean, Live a Praying Life
 - G. The Holy Spirit Equips Us to Carry Out God's Assignments
(I Cor. 12:7-11)
 - H. The Holy Spirit Transforms Us Into the Image of Jesus Christ
(Rom. 8:28-29; I Thes. 5:23; Rom. 6:3-7, 11; 12:1-2; 7:15,18)
Three Components of our Makeup
Spirit: The innermost, eternal part of us that connects with God
Soul: Our human intellect, emotion and will
Body: Physical "vehicle" in which we move and interact with others

Brokenness: God's Tool for Transformation

"God loves us, so He makes us the gift of suffering. Through suffering, we release our hold on the toys of this world, and know our true good lies in another world. We're like blocks of stone, out of which the sculptor carves the forms of men. The blows of his chisel, which hurt us so much, are what make us perfect. *The suffering in this world is not the failure of God's love for us; it is that love in action.* For believe me, this world that seems to us so substantial is no more than the shadowlands. Real life has not begun yet."
C. S. Lewis,
"Shadowlands"

- III. How to Live Lives Filled, Controlled and Empowered By the Holy Spirit
 - A. Learn to "Walk in the Spirit?" (Gal. 5:16-18)

"The only way to conquer the flesh is to yield to the Spirit. **Walk by the Spirit** implies both direction and empowerment; that is, making decisions and choices according to the Holy Spirit's guidance, and acting with the spiritual power that the Spirit supplies. **Led by the Spirit**...implies an active, personal involvement by the Holy Spirit in guiding Christians..."
ESV Study Bible Text Note
 - B. Learn to Be "Filled" With the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18-20; Luke 11:13; I John 1:9; James 4:2; Gal. 5:25)
 - C. Choose What You Think About (Col. 3:1-4)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4
 - D. Immerse Yourself in the Word of God, Music and Thoughts of God (Eph. 6:17; Col. 3:16)
Morning Quiet Time With God (15-30 minutes)
 - Pray that God would reveal Himself through His Word
 - Read expecting that the Holy Spirit will speak to you
 - Journal a brief note as to what you learned and its application
 - Pray that God would impress His truth on your heart, confess any known sin and receive forgiveness
 - Commit the day to Him and ask Him to fill you with His Spirit to give you wisdom and empowerment for the day's challenges

Walking in the Spirit

"When we are under the control of the Spirit of God, our thought life, imagination, volitional choices, and behavior will be occupied with Jesus Christ. When we are under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we go deeper and deeper into our understanding of the ways of God. Our communion with Christ is deeper and closer with each day. He will be constantly controlling our mind, emotions, and will....

When we are under the control of the Spirit, our prayer life is transformed, and we pray with the heart and vision of a righteous man (James 5:16).

When the Holy Spirit is in control, we are of the same mind with God. We are humble before God and man (Phil. 2:1-8).

When we are filled with the Spirit, we have the mind and thus the attitude of Christ (Phil. 2:5). We reproduce His likeness (Gal. 5:22-23).

When we are under the influence of God's presence, nothing really matters but Jesus Christ.

When we are filled with the Spirit and therefore under His control, we live holy lives (Gal. 5:16-18).

We have all of the Spirit, but does He have all of us? Am I yielded to Him? Do I "keep on being filled"? Has this command become a blessed habit to me?"
Will Pounds

Spiritual Transformation (John Ortberg in Leadership Journal)

Significant human transformation always involves training, not just trying.

Spiritual transformation is a long-term endeavor. It involves both God and us. I liken it to crossing an ocean. Some people try, day after day, to be good, to become spiritually mature. That's like taking a rowboat across the ocean. It's exhausting and usually unsuccessful.

Others have given up trying and throw themselves entirely on "relying on God's grace." They're like drifters on a raft. They do nothing but hang on and hope God gets them there.

Neither trying nor drifting are effective in bringing about spiritual transformation. A better image is the sailboat, which if it moves at all, it's a gift of the wind. We can't control the wind, but a good sailor discerns where the wind is blowing and adjusts the sails accordingly.

Working with the Holy Spirit, which Jesus likened to the wind in John 3, means we have a part in discerning the winds, in knowing the direction we need to go, and in training our sails to catch the breezes that God provides.

That's true transformation.

"The Holy Spirit does regenerate men. He has power to raise the dead. He has power to impart life to those who are morally dead or decaying. He has power to impart an entirely new nature to those whose nature now is so corrupt that to men they appear to be beyond hope. How often I have seen it proven. How often I have seen men and women utterly lost and ruined and vile come into a meeting scarcely knowing why they came. As they have sat there, the Word was spoken, the Spirit of God has quickened the Word thus sown in their heart, and in a moment, that man or woman, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, has become a new creation."

R. A. Torrey, Power-Filled Living: How to Receive God's Best for Your Life

"Anyone who yields his or her life to God will be greatly used by God to extend His kingdom. The nature of God's great salvation is that not only are you brought into the family of God, but you are being given the privilege of being a part of His plan to redeem the world. He comes to every believer with the invitation to respond to His work in and around that person's life."

Henry and Mel Blackaby, Experiencing the Spirit

"Every element of our own self-reliance must be put to death by the power of God. The moment we recognize our complete weakness and dependence on Him will be the very moment that the Spirit of God will exhibit His power."

Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest

"The Holy Spirit is absolutely vital to our situation today. Of course, He is always vital; but perhaps especially now. After all, if the Holy Spirit moves, nothing can stop Him. If He doesn't move, we will not produce genuine fruit—no matter how much effort or money we expend. The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Holy Spirit."
Francis Chan, Forgotten God

Recommended for Further Reading

Experiencing the Spirit: The Power of Pentecost Every Day, Henry & Mel Blackaby

Spirit Rising: Tapping into the Power of the Holy Spirit, Jim Cymbala

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit, Francis Chan

The Release of the Spirit, Watchman Nee

The Normal Christian Life, Watchman Nee

Live a Praying Life, Jennifer Kennedy Dean

The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power, Billy Graham

Renovation of the Heart, Dallas Willard

Penetrating the Darkness, Jack Hayford

Praying God's Word: Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds, Beth Moore