

Resources on the Holy Spirit (Ephesians Message part 3) 08-16-2009

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The work of the Spirit in us: (a very partial list)

1. **The Spirit leads us:** Luke 4¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.
2. **The Spirit empowers us:** Luke 4:14 (after the trial in the dessert) ¹⁴Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. QUESTION: IF JESUS had need of being filled with the Spirit, and led by the Spirit...shouldn't that be important to us?
3. **The Holy Spirit communicates with us** – He is not an impersonal force! Acts 10: ¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three^[a] men are looking for you. ²⁰So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."
4. **The Holy Spirit brings peace and abundant life:** Romans 8: ⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man^[a] is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
5. **The Holy Spirit brings Holiness and kills sin in our lives:** Romans 8: ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
6. **The Holy Spirit confirms to us that we are sons of God:** Romans 8: ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. ^[a]And by him we cry, "Abba, ^[b]Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
7. **The Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak and in distress, and teaches us how to pray then:** Romans 8 ²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.
8. **The Spirit can tell us what is to come:** 1st Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
9. **The Holy Spirit brings Hope:** [Romans 15:13](#)
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
10. **The Holy Spirit brings joy:** [1 Thessalonians 1:6](#)
You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. (and yes – The Holy Spirit working in our lives also causes us to produce joy, hope, peace, love, etc as fruit.)

Resources for going deeper:

They Found the Secret by V. Raymond Edman – Short biographies of twenty or so Christians who were filled and changed by the Holy Spirit after their salvation. Includes Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, John Bunyan, D.L. Moody, Oswald Chambers, John "Praying" Hyde, Andrew Murray, Charles Finney, and many more.

The Believers Full Blessing of Pentecost and *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray – Short paperbacks, often found in the bargain bin at Christian bookstores. Andrew Murray was an incredible writer and pastor, and had a deep and life changing experience with the Holy Spirit.

God the Holy Spirit and *Joy Unspeakable* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones – Jones was a pastor in London, and a prolific writer. He writes very Biblically and solidly, but is also easy to understand.

The World Aflame by Rick Joyner – A short, exciting, and life changing overview of the Welsh revival of 1904.

Whatever Happened to the Power of God by Michael L. Brown – One of the most personally influential books I have ever read. This will stoke your fire for going deeper.

Why Revival Tarries by Leonard Ravenhill – A clarion call to the church to stop compromising and seek God until He comes in power.

Why God Used D.L. Moody by R.A. Torrey – Recommended by David McConnell – A quick, but powerful read on D.L. Moody by one of his best friends. See in particular reason #7 – God used D.L. Moody because he was definitely endued with power from on high – a very clear and definite baptism of the Holy Ghost. Google the title or go to: <http://www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/texts/dasc/WGUDLM.HTM#Sec7>

Some selected readings on the Holy Spirit and His filling/Baptism:

From John Piper's message: "You Shall Receive Power 'Till Jesus Comes'"

(http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/1990/727_You_Shall_Receive_Power_Till_Jesus_Comes/)

"Let me use an illustration from Martin Lloyd-Jones in his book *Joy Unspeakable* to describe the difference between common Christian living and what happens when the Holy Spirit "clothes" a person with power or "comes upon" a person with this unusual power.

He says it is like a child walking along holding his father's hand. All is well. The child is happy. He feels secure. His father loves him. He believes that his father loves him but there is no unusual urge to talk about this or sing about it. It is true and it is pleasant.

Then suddenly the father startles the child by reaching down and sweeping him up into his arms and hugging him tightly and kissing him on the neck and whispering, "I love you so much!" And then holding the stunned child back so that he can look into his face and saying with all his heart, "I am so glad you are mine." Then hugging him once more with unspeakable warmth and affection. Then he puts the child down and they continue their walk.

This, Lloyd-Jones says, is what happens when a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit. A pleasant and happy walk with God is swept up into an unspeakable new level of joy and love and assurance and reality that leaves the Christian so utterly certain of the immediate reality of Jesus that he is overflowing in praise and more free and bold in witness than he ever imagined he could be.

The child is simply stunned. He doesn't know whether to cry or shout or fall down or run, he is so happy. The fuses of love are so overloaded they almost blow out. The subconscious doubts—that he wasn't thinking about at the time, but that pop up every now and then—are gone! And in their place is utter and indestructible assurance, so that you know that you know that you know that God is real and that Jesus lives and that you are loved, and that to be saved is the greatest thing in the world. And as you walk on down the street you can scarcely contain yourself, and you want to cry out, "My father loves me! My father loves me! O, what a great father I have! What a father! What a father!" . . . I think this is basically what happened at Pentecost. And has happened again and again in the life of the church."

D.L. Moody, preaching at the Hippodrome in New York City:

“Now I want this thing clearly understood. We believe firmly [if] any man...has been cleansed by the blood, redeemed by the blood, and been sealed by the Holy Ghost [i.e. Holy Spirit], that Holy Ghost dwells in him. And a thought I want to call your attention to is this, that God has got a good many children who have just barely got life, but not power for service. You might say safely, I think, without exaggeration, that nineteen out of every twenty of professed Christians are of no earthly account so far as building up Christ’s kingdom; but on the contrary they are standing right in the way, and the reason is because they have just got life and have settled down, and have not sought for power. The Holy Ghost [Holy Spirit] coming upon them with power is distinct and separate from conversion. If the Scripture doesn’t teach it I am ready to correct it. “Let us look and see what God says, and if you will look in the third chapter of Luke you will see that all these thirty years Christ had been in Nazareth He had been a son, but now the Holy Ghost come upon Him for service, and He goes back to Nazareth and finds a place where it is written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captive, to recover sight to the blind, and set at liberty them that are bruised.’ And for three years we find Him preaching the kingdom of God, casting out devils, and raising the dead, while for thirty years that He was at Nazareth, we hear nothing of Him. He was a son all the while, but now He is anointed for service; and if the Son of God has got to be anointed, do not His disciples need it, and shall not we seek it, and shall we barely rest with conversion?”

“In the 7th chapter of John and 38th and 39th verses, Jesus says, ‘He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because not yet glorified.)’ Now, do you tell me that Peter and John and James and the rest of those men had not been converted at that time? [In Reality they received the Holy Spirit for conversion in John 20, right after Jesus’ resurrection.] Had they been three years with the Son of God and had not been born of the Spirit? Had not Nicodemus been born of the Spirit, and had not men been converted before them? Yes, but they were saints without power, and must tarry in Jerusalem until imbued with power from on high. I believe we should accomplish more in one week than we should in years if we had only this fresh baptism...”

“It seems to me we have got about three classes of Christians: [1.] the first class, in the 3rd chapter of John, were those who had got to Calvary and there got life. They believed on the Son and were saved, and there they rested satisfied. They did not seek anything higher. [Being an old Navy man, I would call this your equivalent of a Seaman Recruit, lowest of the lowest level of sailor.]

[2.] Then in the 4th chapter of John we come to a better class of Christians. There it was a well of living water bubbling up. There were a few of these, but they are not a hundredth part of the first. [So in a congregation of 100, perhaps one is this 2nd class Christian, perhaps this means the pastor, or maybe one sitting amongst the 100. Think about that. I would call this your 2nd class petty officer.]

[3.] But the best class is in the 7th chapter of John: ‘Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.’ That is the kind of Christian we ought to be... [and in my Navy terminology, this would be your 1st class petty officer.]”

“A great many think because they have been filled once, they are going to be full for all time after; but O, my friends, we are leaky vessels, and have to be kept right under the fountain all the time in order to keep full. If we are to be used by God we have to be very humble. A man that lives close to God will be humblest of men. I heard a man say that God always chooses the vessel that is close at hand. Let us keep near Him.”

Do you want to be a mere 3rd class Christian, just barely alive in the spiritual sense, or do you desire to reach higher and be one of those who will genuinely make a difference for the kingdom of God in a spiritually decaying and dying world? If so, you need to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

From Joy Unspeakable by Martyn Lloyd-Jones (beginning on page 80)

Now Jonathan Edwards was probably one of the greatest minds that the world has ever known. He is certainly the greatest brain America has ever produced, a brilliant, outstanding philosopher, the last man in the world to be carried away by false emotionalism. Indeed, he wrote a great treatise on the subject, called The Religious Affections, to

teach people how to differentiate between the work of the Spirit and the carnality that often simulates the work of the Spirit. So Jonathan Edwards was the last man who was likely to go astray at this point. This is what he says:

"As I rode out into the woods for my health, in 1737, having alighted from my horse in a retired place, as my manner commonly has been to walk for divine contemplation and prayer, I had a view, that was for me extraordinary, of the glory of the Son of God as mediator between God and man and His wonderful, great, full, pure and sweet grace and love, and meek and gentle condescension. The grace that appeared so calm and sweet appeared also great above the heavens, the person of Christ appeared ineffably excellent and an excellency great enough to swallow up all thoughts and conceptions, which continued, as near as I can judge, about an hour, which kept me a greater part of the time in a flood of tears and weeping aloud. I felt an ardency of soul to be what I know not otherwise how to express, emptied and annihilated, to lie in the dust and to be full of Christ alone, to love Him with a holy and a pure love, to trust in Him, to live upon Him, to serve Him, and to be perfectly sanctified and made pure with a divine and heavenly purity".

Then, from Jonathan Edwards we come to a very different man---D. L. Moody, who was not a great brain, not a great philosopher, not a genius in any sense of the term. He always described himself as a very ordinary man, and he was right. But he experienced exactly the same thing . . .

". . . 'Well, one day, in the city of New York, oh what a day, I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it. It is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke (for) fourteen years. I can only say, God revealed Himself to me and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went out preaching again, the sermons were no different and I did not present any new truths and yet hundreds were converted. I would not be placed back where I was before that blessed experience."

A similar thing happened to the great Baptist preacher, Christmas Evans; it happened to Wesley; it happened to Whitefield.

'Ah, but," you may say, 'all those men were great preachers and evidently it is something that is intended for men and women who are to perform striking service.' But . . . there are others---large numbers of ordinary people---who can testify to exactly the same thing.

Indeed, we are told specifically in the Scriptures, are we not, that this is something which all Christians should experience. You remember what the apostle Peter said on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem? When the people cried out and said, 'What shall we do?' Peter replied and said, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call' ([Acts 2:38-39](#)). That statement means that it is an experience which is meant to be quite universal among Christian people.

"So what is it? Well, I cannot, let me repeat, identify this with being filled with the Spirit because these men who looked back to this one great occasion were filled with the Spirit many times afterwards. I would describe it like this: it is the initial experience of the filling or, perhaps it is an exceptionally outstanding experience of it. It is something they describe as being 'poured forth'---the very terms of Scripture. Finney says that in his case it came wave after wave upon him---they seem to be almost lifted up to the heavens. They knew what it was to be filled many times afterwards, but this was something unique and special. It is an occasion in which the reality of divine things becomes plain, in a way that it has never been before and, in a sense, never is again, so that they can look back to it; it stands out in all its glory. And, therefore, this is something which we should seek. But so many, because of their fear of the excesses, have never even sought it and have felt that it is wrong and dangerous to seek it and thereby they have put themselves out of the category that includes these great men of God whose experiences we have just been considering."

Seek Him Until You Find Him!!!