

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Part 1

1. As the church has faced temptations in the past so it faces great temptations today. One of the greatest of temptations is to believe that a church can be established and prosper spiritually that is not born of the Holy Spirit.

This belief has given way to a conviction that man can rise above temptation by getting better and better so there is no need for the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The unspoken belief is that there is no need for the Spirit in bringing a church into existence; there is no need for the presence of the Holy Spirit in maintaining the ministry; there is no need for the Holy Spirit in the daily life of a believer.

The truth of the matter is this. Christian, never think for a minute that there will be a time when you will not be tempted. He is tempted the most effectively who thinks that he isn't tempted at all.

2. Temptation comes to remind the church that Christians must fight for what it has. Our little field of God's planting must have the necessary weapons and plenty of watchmen out there to drive off the crows and all sorts of creatures, to say nothing of the little insects that destroy the crops. We must keep after them. We must keep our field healthy, and there is only one way to do that, and that is to keep true to the Word of God.
3. We must earnestly, sacrificially and prayerfully, strive to be empowered with that same power that came upon the church at the Day of Pentecost.
4. There are some characteristics of a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led congregation.
 - First, a congregation Spirit filled and Spirit led will be a joyful people.
 - Second, a congregation Spirit filled and Spirit led will be a useful people to the race of men.
 - Third, a congregation Spirit filled and Spirit led will be influential among the churches. Paul told some of his people ... *"Ye are ensamples to all that believe,"* and *"...in every place your faith to Godward is spread abroad."*
 - Fourth, a congregation Spirit filled and Spirit led will live well and the people will die well. They will die well because they have picked up the cross Jesus said His followers must bear. The cross of Jesus Christ always changes men's attitude and actions. The cross of Christ is revolutionary, and if we are not ready to let it be revolutionary in us nor let it cost us anything or control us in any way, we are not going to like a church that takes the things of God seriously.

5. There are some who will not be happy in a Spirit led and Spirit filled church.
- Those who seek entertainment will not be happy in a Spirit led and Spirit filled church. A. W. Tozer said, *“When I sing “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” I am worshipping God Almighty. If you want to call “entertainment” that which they do before the throne, when they cry day and night without ceasing, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,” then I am an entertainer. If it isn’t entertainment – and it isn’t – then I am a worshipper.”*
 - Those who embrace a church for its cultural values will not be happy in a Spirit led and Spirit filled congregation. Did you ever meet people like this? They want book reviews and lectures on flower arrangements, and child-rearing and all sorts of things – but it is a foregone conclusion that they are not going to be at home among God’s dear regenerated people who are intent upon Spirit advancement.
6. Who are the people who will be happy and contented and fulfilled in a Spirit filled congregation?
- They are those who have a leading ambition to be rid of their sins. I believe we ought to want to be rid of our sins. If I had a cancer growing on my neck I would want to be rid of it – the sooner the better.
 - The people who want to know God and to walk with God will be happy in a Spirit filled congregation. Their ambition is to walk with God and to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.
 - Those who have learned to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd will be at home in a Spirit filled church.
 - Those who are sensitive to the Invisible Presence will be at home in a Spirit led and Spirit filled congregation. There are those who have tasted of the good Word of God and felt the mysterious power of the world to come.
- “Thank God for those in the churches who would rather hear the voice of Jesus than to hear the voice of the greatest preacher or the best singer in the world. Thank God for those who would rather be conscious of the Divine Presence than to be in the presence of the greatest man in the world. Thank God for those who are sick of their own sin and long to be holy – I pray that such numbers may increase” (A. W. Tozer)*
7. How does a congregation get a Spirit filled Spirit led church? The answer is fourfold.
- God must be brought back by prayer. *Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*
 - God must be brought back by gospel obedience. *Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

- God must be brought back by confession of sin—until the Spirit takes over in the midst of the people. *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - God must be brought back by waiting humbly and quietly before Him. We must wait for God to come back but we can wait with hope that He will return if we are broken, sincerely sorry for sin. *Psalm 145:15 The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.*
8. What are the tragic results when a congregation is not Spirit filled and Spirit led?
- The fellowship of the church degenerates into a social fellowship with a mild religious flavor. This must not be allowed to stand. The church must have God. “I want God Himself – or else I will go out and be something other than a Christian. I think the Lord had something like that in mind when He said, *‘I would thou were cold or hot—because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth’* (Rev. 3:16).
 - When the Spirit is not honored the congregation allows many unspiritual, non-spiritual and anti spiritual teachers to be brought into the church. One such teaching is that courage, energy, good qualities personified or enthusiasm is the Spirit— and that is not true. Some who can get all worked up over a song and imagine that this is the Spirit, but that is not necessarily so, for they go and live just like the sinful world. The Holy Spirit is a Person, and when the Spirit comes to a human person He changes that individual, for the Holy Spirit permeates the human spirit and transforms it. The Holy Spirit will not be just another addition. The Holy Spirit will be Lord or He will not come at all.
9. How do we know the Holy Spirit is a person and not merely courage, energy, good qualities personified or enthusiasm?
- Well, the historic Christian church said that the Holy Spirit is God.

The Nicene Creed concludes, *“And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified...”*

The Athanasian Creed says, *“For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal.*

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit. *The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.*

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternals, but one Eternal. As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one Uncreated, and one Incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Spirit Almighty. And yet they are not three almighties, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord. And yet not three lords, but one Lord.

For as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge each Person by Himself to be both God and Lord, so we are also forbidden by the catholic religion to say that there are three gods or three lords.

The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits.

And in the Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another, but all three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved must think thus of the Trinity.

- More importantly the *Scriptures* teach the Holy Spirit is a person.

The Spirit is God for only God can claim omnipresence. Psalms 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

The Spirit has power to create. Only God can create. Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

The Spirit is called the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Equality of the Spirit as God is found in the baptismal formula. Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

There is the benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14. *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

10. With the fact established the Holy Spirit is a person and not just any person but God Himself, the next fact to be established is that He is united with the ministry of the *New Testament* church in a profound way. The story is told in Acts 2.

- On the Day of Pentecost the Spirit came accompanied by external signs.

The Spirit came when the church was gathered in one place. Such a gathering was unique, soon the 120 became over 3,000 and then over 8,000 and then such a number that no man could count those who had been given to the Son.

The Spirit came with cloven tongues of fire, something that has not been repeated in the annuals of Church history.

The Spirit came with the sound of the rushing of a mighty wind, something that has not been repeated in the annuals of Church history.

The Spirit came and gave the ability to speak in languages not previously known, and that has never been repeated in the annuals of Church history.

As interesting as these external manifestations of the coming of the Spirit were they are not necessary to the Christian church, or necessary to its perpetuation, or the Church would have ceased to exist on the day it was born.

Undue attention must not be given to the externals but to the internal events that took place that day as prophecy was being fulfilled.

According to John 14:16, Jesus said, *"I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter."* In John 16:14, Jesus said, *"He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."* This was the promise: Someone was coming who would have the authority and the ability and the capacity to make Jesus Christ real to those who believed.

Filled with the Spirit it was Peter who leaped to his feet to defend the phenomena and to declare that *"...God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."* In John 15, Jesus had also said, *"...I tell you the truth...I will send him unto you...and when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin."*

What greater sin was there than the murder of the Son of God. It was with boldness that Peter declared this and that too was according to promise. Jesus had said, *"Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."*

Peter obeyed the Lord. He tarried in Jerusalem and when the Spirit came He gave Peter the ability, the dynamic power to do what can never be done in the flesh, and that is to effectively set Christ before a hostile world.

The soul winner has power to win souls to Christ. The preacher has power to make the Scriptures plain. When the Spirit comes He gives the ability to do. He gives the ability to be victorious, to live right, to behold Jesus and to live with heaven in view.

The most important truth about the Day of Pentecost is that the Comforter has come. Deity is in our midst. God has given Himself to us. Deity has been poured out. *“He hath shed forth this which you now see and hear.”*

And now the church must see that spiritual truth, must want Him, the Spirit of all spiritual truth, for without Him we cannot be like Christ and without Christ we can do nothing.

In order to write sonnets like Shakespeare we must have the spirit of Shakespeare. If we want to compose music like Johann Sebastian Bach we would have to have the spirit of Bach. If we wanted to be a statesman like Ronald Reagan we would have to possess the spirit of Reagan. And if we are going to reproduce Christ on earth we must be Christ like and show forth Christ then we must have the spirit of Christ!

If we are going to be the children of God, we must have the Spirit of the Father to breathe in our hearts and breathe through us. That is why we must have the Spirit of God. That is why the church must have the Spirit of Christ.

11. If Christians become convinced of the need to have the filling of the Holy Spirit an important truth emerges. No one was ever filled with the Holy Ghost who did not know he had so been filled. Furthermore the filling of the Spirit is not something that happens gradually but all at once. In the *Scriptures* there is never a gradual filling of the Spirit. He came upon individuals all at once.

12. But there are pre-requisites for being filled with the Spirit.

- In order to be filled with the Spirit there must be a simple faith that the filling of the Spirit is an experience that is designed to be the normal Christian life, but it is not sought because of a belief it is not needed. The filling of the Spirit is not needed because of a doctrinal teaching that at the moment of salvation the Christian receives everything God has for the soul. There is nothing to move on to seek. Of course every now and then someone comes and says, *“Well God did it. The Spirit came.”* And from that moment the Christian life is transformed.
- In order to be filled with the Spirit there must be a sincere willingness to be possessed by the Spirit. There are two kinds of spirit possessions. There is the possession by evil spirits, where a human personality can be completely submerged making it filthy or dumb or evil. Jesus cast out such spirits as these.

In contrast and radically different is the good and kind Holy Spirit who wants to fill us and possess us if we are Christians. This Spirit is like Jesus for He is the Spirit of Christ.

The Holy Spirit is pure. He is wise for He is the Spirit of wisdom. He is true for He is the Spirit of truth. He is like the Father for He is the Spirit of the Father.

He wants to be the Lord of your life and He wants to possess you so completely that you are no longer in command of the little vessel in which you sail.

You are no longer in charge. Those who are born of Adam do not like the idea of surrendering sovereignty of their lives. So the prerequisite stands.

The heart must be ready and willing for the personality to be taken over by Someone who is like Christ. He will expect obedience to the *Written Word of God*, not in some things but in all things. The truth of the matter is that most people just do not want to be filled badly enough to be filled.

- In order to be filled with the Spirit there must be a willingness to die to self. Self-sins include the love of self. The Holy Spirit will never allow a show off. He brings humility to the heart. There is also the sin of self-confidence. And there is the sin of self-righteousness. We say we are bad but we do not really believe it.
- In order to be filled with the Spirit there must be a willingness to stand against the easy and dishonest ways of the world and live the hard life of a Christian. God reserves the right to test the heart in this area. There is no place for boasting. There is no place for dishonesty. There is no place for sharp deals.
- In order to be filled with the Spirit we must be willing to lose things. The believers in the Scriptures usually had God –and not much else.
- In order to be filled with the Spirit there must be an acute understanding that such a need exists. It is possible to receive Jesus, be converted, read the Bible, take a course on the New Testament and have a simple and wonderful time going to heaven. The filling of the Spirit is for those who cannot get along without it. The heart of some has come to a realization that the Scriptures cannot be obeyed or understood and no spiritual fruit can be borne except by having a greater measure of the Holy Spirit than is now known.
- In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit the desire must be all-absorbing. There must be a longing after God as the hart pants after the water brook.

The heart must be on the verge of despair having gone through disturbance, anxiety, disappointment and emptiness. God does not come rushing into a human heart unless He knows that he is the answer and fulfillment to the greatest, most overpowering desire of that life. God wants to get us to a place where He knows we would be happy with only Him.

13. If there is a longing for nothing but God, and if there is a desperate desire to have the Holy Spirit – not as a reward for the soul's despair, but as a gift of the Father, then consider four *Bible* passages on how to be filled with the Spirit.

- In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit you must present your vessel. *Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be*

not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. God cannot fill what He cannot have. Present your vessel. If you do not present your personality you will not get the fullness of the Spirit of God.

- In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit you must ask. *Luke 11:11-13 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?* If this promise is not for God's people today, then why did He put it in the *Bible*? Why did God not put it somewhere where it would not do harm by raising expectations? The truth is God wants to give us His Spirit but He also wants us to ask. All over the world people have asked for the gift of the Holy Spirit and received it.
- In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit there must be willing obedience. Acts 5:32 teaches that *"we are His witnesses of these things, and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him."* The Spirit of God cannot give a disobedient child His blessing. The Father cannot fill a disobedient child with the Holy Spirit. Nor does the Spirit wish to go into a rebellious heart.
- In order to be filled with the Holy Spirit there must be faith in God. *Galatians 3:2-3 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?* The answer of course is by faith. By faith we receive Christ as Saviour and in receiving Him we receive the Holy Spirit. But the fullness of the Spirit, the anointing is an act that comes upon the life, not gradually but instantaneously. The one anointed knows it and so do others.

"The problem is that we may not want the anointing if the truth were told. We want to be blessed, to go to heaven, to wear a crown and to rule over five cities. We do not want to come to the place where the Lord chops us down and hews us up. We don't want that! That is why we are the weak people that we are these days. The Lord's people want Jesus to do all the dying, and they want to do all the chuckling. Perhaps our greatest shame is that we do not want to know what the cross really means!" (A. W. Tozer)

"Oh, Cross that lifest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee,
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be."

14. If there is a single reason why more people are not filled with the Holy Ghost, besides not really wanting to be, it is because many have been taught that the filling of the Holy Spirit happens at the moment of salvation and that is all there is. But the heart knows different. The heart knows how barren the Christian life is. There is little joy, happiness or blessing. Why?

Because there is no anointing with the Holy Ghost. In the early church the disciples were like thoroughbreds. Something from God had come to them and they blazed with light and power and life. Most of us are sickly ponies by comparison. What is wrong? We need the anointing of the Holy Ghost. We need to tarry in Jerusalem until we are endued with power from on high according to promise. The promise made to the early disciples is as much a promise for you and me today – if we believe. Listen again to what Jesus said the Spirit would do when He came.

- When the Holy Spirit comes He will abide with the believer as one person abides with another in a state of fellowship, communion and comfort. *John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
- When the Holy Spirit comes He cleanses the heart of sin. *John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*
- When the Holy Spirit comes He guides into all truth. *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*
- When the Holy Spirit comes He glorifies Christ. *John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. John 16: 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Now the question comes to the modern Christian. Do we enjoy an abiding conscious fellowship of the Holy Ghost? Do we live a life sensitive to sin so that we forsake it? Do we understand spiritual matters? Do our lives glorify Christ? If not what are we to do? The answer is this. We are to wait expectantly for the anointing of the Holy Ghost. *Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* The disciples tarried and they were filled.

15. One of the great practical values of a congregation being Spirit filled and Spirit led is that the various gifts of the Holy Spirit are made manifest in the body life of the congregation. Some of the spiritual gifts the Spirit gives may be listed.
 - There is the gift of an apostle.
 - There is the gift of an ambassador or messenger.
 - There is the gift that makes a prophet.
 - There is the gift that makes a teacher.
 - There is the gift that makes an exhorter.

- There is the gift that makes the ruler.
- There is the gift of wisdom.
- There is the gift of knowledge.
- There is the gift of faith.
- There is the gift of healing.
- There is the gift of tongues.
- There is the gift of interpretation.
- There is the gift of discernment.
- There is the gift of helps.
- There is the gift of mercy showing.
- There is the gift of government.
- There is the gift of giving liberally.
- There is the gift of the evangelist.

16. Where these gifts are not present, or not recognized, or denied, the Church is thrown back upon other ways of getting a work done.

- We are thrown back for example upon talent—just talent.
- We are thrown back upon psychology.
- We are thrown back upon business techniques.
- We are thrown back upon political techniques such as democracy.
- We are thrown back upon sales methods.

17. Of course those who are in the flesh cannot please God. All of the human elements we become dependent on ultimately and utterly fail. We must have the Holy Spirit as did the following men and women of faith.

- Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo, who walked with God and wrote a great confession of faith.
- Bernard of Cluny was a saint and he wrote *Jerusalem, the Golden*. “*Jerusalem, the golden, with milk and honey blest.*” This man walked with God. He had a twin, Bernard of Clairvaux who wrote, “*Jesus, the very thought of Thee, with sweetness fills my breast.*”
- Richard Rolle lived in the fourteenth century as a monk. But he was so blessed he could not stay in the monastery. With a guitar in his hands he went all over England preaching the gospel he called “*Heart, fragrance and song.*”
- Brother Lawrence was the man who practiced the presence of God. When he was dying, they said, “*What are you doing, Brother Lawrence?*” He replied, “*I am doing what I plan to do through all eternity—worshipping God. When I die I won’t change my occupation. I have just been worshipping God for forty years on earth, and when I get to heaven I’ll just keep right on doing what I am doing.*”

- Thomas a Kempis wrote *The Imitation of Christ*, a devotional book that is still read today.
- Martin Luther, the good doctor, took a hammer, nailed a document to the church door and set the world on fire without losing a divine sense of humor. “*I’m going to get married to tease the pope and to make the devil mad*” he said. And, when life grew serious Dr. Luther was the man who stood and said, “*If every tile on the housetop was a devil, here I stand. I can do nothing else, so help me God!*” He gave the Word of God back to the people and withstood a corrupt papacy.
- Zinzendorf was that rich German nobleman who saw a painting of Christ crucified on the cross. He wept and said, “*If He died for me, I must give myself to Him!*” Out of his devotion and vision came the emphasis on which all the modern missionary movements of the present day are based.
- Tersteegen was a silk weaver in Germany who had such an experience with God he signed a covenant with God in his own blood. His humble cottage became a center of spiritual power.
- John Newton wrote *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Stands*, having been converted from the slave trading business.
- William Booth started the great Salvation Army.
- Jonathan Edwards was used of God to bring forth the Great Awakening whereby many souls were swept into the kingdom.
- Charles Finney was the lawyer who was converted and filled with the Holy Ghost, so that he said, “*The Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression like a wave of electricity going through and through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love....like the very breathe of God...it seemed to fan me like immense wings.*”
- David Livingston opened Africa to the gospel. So much did the Africans love him, when he died they kept his heart and buried it on the Dark Continent and shipped his body back to England.
- Charles Spurgeon was filled with the Holy Ghost and preached to over 5,000 people each Sunday during his public ministry.
- George Muller prayed down millions of dollars to feed the orphans entrusted to his care. God never denied him anything. He had the ear of heaven.
- Frances Havergal was such a Spirit filled woman when she came into a room there was a consciousness of two people coming into the room—Frances Havergal and the Holy Ghost.

- Evan Roberts was the man who prayed, “*Bend me, oh God, bend me!*” and God bent him and gave Wales a religious renewal.
- Dr. Seng, the Chinese Christian was beaten and sewed in a sack and then kicked about. He survived to preach the gospel in China to the glory of God.
- Dr. A. B. Simpson started out with eight people who prayed for missions. God heard the prayers of His children and a great missionary society was established.
- Billy Nicholson was the evangelist who went to Ireland at a time of political unrest and moral decadence. Many were converted under his ministry and many more lives were spared a premature death.
- Holy Ann was the Irish – Canadian woman who talked so intimately about her heavenly Father some people thought God had no other children but her.
- Sammy Morris was the Kru boy from Africa who came to the United States to ask someone to tell him about the Holy Spirit. His body is buried in Fort Wayne, Indiana. All he wanted was a glimpse of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Frederick Faber wrote, “*Oh Jesus, Jesus, Dearest Lord, forgive me if I say, for very love, Thy precious Name a thousand times a day.*”
- Charles Wesley made the world to sing with his “*Jesus, Lover of my Soul*”, “*Love Divine, All Love Excelling*” and his “*And Can it be that I should Gain an Interest in my Savior’s Blood?*” His brother John Wesley was an egg catcher for they threw eggs on him when he preached. And yet together these brothers saved England from a revolution that devoured French nation.

The point of mentioning these men and women is to remind ourselves that the gifts of the Holy Ghost have not been withdrawn or these individuals could never have accomplished what they did. Apart from the Holy Spirit we are left to believe that these individuals advanced the kingdom of God by fleshly means and that position is unacceptable.

Care must be taken not to think these individuals were extraordinary in and of themselves. No, they were simply vessels in the hands of the Sovereign who consciously wanted to be used of God and filled with His Spirit. They were no different than you or me other than in this single matter.

18. Realistically not everyone will be used of God, not everyone will be filled with the Spirit for not everyone wants this anointing of the Holy Ghost. This does not mean they are not interested. It just means that a lot of people want the world and Christ. In the words of John Bunyan they are like Mr. Facing Both-ways. Who are these people who face both ways?

- Those who are interested in the church for its insurance value will not be anointed with the Holy Ghost. There are individuals who are willing to give up certain pleasures of sin for the guarantee they can go to heaven when they die. They will support the church and missions in order not to be sent to hell. They want a fire insurance policy. But that is all they want.
 - The Holy Ghost will not anoint those who have a social concept of religion and not a spiritual one. There are some whose lives are more influenced by Hollywood than by Jerusalem. They enjoy helping others for it eases their conscience and allows them to live and let live. But to die to self, to avoid evil, to walk the narrow way is not what they want at all. The person who is satisfied with life has no spiritual journey to make or land to conquer. They are at ease in Zion and do not want to be disturbed by God talk and the necessity of being filled with the Spirit. Those who will be filled are those who have a sympathetic reception of the Word of God and not just an intellectual one.
19. For those whose hearts are hungry, for those who want intimacy with God and not merely an insurance policy or social engagement there are three points to observe.
- The Holy Spirit is a living Person. This simple fact must be engaged if there is to be personal intimacy with the Holy Ghost. Jesus said in John 7:38-39 *“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”* Since the Holy Spirit is a personality He can never be fully known in a single encounter. The fellowship of the Spirit can be an abiding experience that deepens and matures as the years go by. But the world, the flesh and the devil will have to be dismissed and denied. The time given to fleshly lusts and activity that borders on the demonic must be redeemed.
 - When the Holy Spirit is honored Christ is honored and communion with the Holy Ghost is enhanced. As we honor Christ, the Spirit of God becomes glad within us. He ceases to hold back. He communes with us and imparts Himself, and the sun comes up and heaven comes near as Jesus Christ becomes our All in all.
 - We must walk in righteousness if we are to know the Holy Spirit in increasing intimacy. The gospel of grace is not a license to sin. We do have now, as Jude predicted, *“...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”* That is wrong. It is more than wrong, it is damnable. The Sermon on the Mount, the Lord’s Prayer, the Pastoral Epistles all teach that Jesus expects His people to be clean and pure and right. The grace of God that bringeth salvation teaches the heart that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world.
 - The thoughts must be clean if there is to be close intimacy with the Holy Ghost. A person with malicious and evil thoughts cannot be living closely with the Holy Spirit. Such a one cannot be a companion of the loving Holy Spirit. A person with lust, deception, or anger, a person bloated with egotism and vindictiveness cannot hold communion with the Holy Ghost. It is impossible. Keep your mind pure.

Clean out the sanctuary the way Hezekiah did. Then the blessed God can come and be worshipped again. We need thoughts of peace, thoughts of charity, thoughts of God and the Son of God for these are pure things, good things and high things.

- The *Bible* must be studied if there is to be close intimacy with the Holy Spirit. There is no substitute for knowledge of the *Scriptures*. They are to be read, studied, memorized and mediated upon. The *Scriptures* must be hidden in the heart. The Holy Spirit wrote the *Word* and so we must make much of it. The *Bible* is a living Book. It is still vital and effective and alive.
- Recognize the Spirit of the Lord is everywhere if a desire for intimacy is to be enjoyed. The Holy Spirit is so pervasive that David found it impossible to move out of His presence. Psalm 139 tells us he realized he could not get away from God. *“If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there. If I...dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me.”*

If there is to be intimacy with the Holy Spirit then we need to repent, remember and rejoice in the One who brought us into the family of God by the new birth.

20. With the intimacy of the Holy Spirit comes spiritual power. This spiritual power does not include the working of miracles per se for the disciples had that prior to Pentecost. The power the Holy Spirit brings is the ability to change lives, to do things.
21. Those filled with the Holy Spirit can do something because something has been done to them. Consider what the Holy Spirit did for the disciples at Pentecost.
 - When the anointing of the Holy Ghost came the disciples knew the sudden, brilliant consciousness of the actual presence of the Living God. It is possible to learn many facts about the Lord. But when the Spirit comes He makes God precious to the heart. *Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.*
 - When the anointing of the Holy Spirit came on the disciples they received the joy of the Holy Ghost. The joy of the disciples was not a joy worked up by music and drama and artificial excitement. Such joy may attract a crowd but it will not keep it. Such joy vanishes like the morning mist and leaves the soul more depressed than ever until the next event. The joy of the Lord is a joy in the Lord and that can only be a gift of God as the heart is occupied with Him. It is the joy of His presence and Person that delighted the hearts of the disciples.
 - When the anointing of the Holy Ghost came the disciples received power to penetrate and arrest the hearts of others through the power of words. The same words spoken by one person will put you under conviction. The same words spoken by another will leave you cold. What is the difference? The anointing of the Holy Ghost is the answer. When the Spirit comes He penetrates into the soul of a person so they are “pricked”. *Acts 2:37-44 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto*

them, 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. 39 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. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

- When the anointing of the Holy Spirit came the disciples had a clear sense of reality. All of their questions in the gospels were now answered and they had answers for others who were concerned about spiritual matters. God never sends a preacher to ask questions. He sends them to declare with authority and in His name His message.
- When the anointing of the Holy Spirit came the disciples experienced a sharp separation from the world. We are bringing the world in head over heels into the church – unregenerated, uncleaned, unbaptized, and unsanctified. We are bringing the world into the church. God's people are praying people. Before Pentecost the only one who stayed awake in prayer was Christ. After Pentecost the people prayed with groanings which cannot be uttered. The difference was the Spirit.
- When the anointing of the Holy Spirit came the disciples loved the *Scriptures* of God. The Bible becomes precious to those who are Spirit filled. The *Bible* was never meant to be read with the spirit of Adam but with the Spirit of God.

The conclusion of the matter is that we need the Holy Ghost. We need His Person. We need His presence. We need His gifts. We need the anointing. May the perpetuation of Pentecost be our experience? May the Holy Ghost come down? Only God knows. But let us tarry to find out. Amen.