

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

Part 3

1. It is taught by some that the saints of this dispensation, from Pentecost to the present hour, should not be exhorted to seek the indwelling of the Spirit, or the baptism of the Spirit again and again for both the indwelling and the baptism are the present possession of all, who, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are regenerate.
 - *1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*
 - *Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since [lit. when] ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*
2. Any exhortation to holiness of life is based upon the already existing fact of such possession. The believer is exhorted to be filled with the Spirit in order to secure the fullness of blessing, victory, and power.
3. It is a great transforming thought that the body has become the temple of the Holy Spirit in which He dwells.
 - *1 Corinthians 6:19 What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*
4. While it is true that both the indwelling of the Spirit and the baptism into the body of Christ remain a once and for all experience at the moment of salvation, there are many fillings or anointings, and in that sense it is not wrong to seek to be baptized or immersed with the Spirit, which is another way of saying to be anointed with power from on high.
 - *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.*
 - *Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*
 - *Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
5. The *Bible* never speaks of the wrath of the Spirit, but He can be vexed or grieved.
 - *Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled, and vexed [grieved] his Holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.*

6. That which grieves the Holy Spirit are unholy thoughts and actions that are allowed in life.
- *Galatians 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God (NIV).*

While it is not wrong to be tempted in these areas, when the will assents to them the Holy Spirit is grieved.

7. It would be nice not to be tempted, but temptation, or testing will come for the purpose of approval. And the goodness is that many tests will come so there will be many opportunities to reverse one's lifestyle and choose time and time again to walk with God.

When I was in school I came to value the fact that my final grade was not determined by just one or two tests. The more opportunity there was to gather points the better. In like manner, the opportunity to be fundamentally and forever different comes many times to the will. The watching God waits to see if there is a heart for Him "*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him*" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

8. When the renewed will is exercised in a direction towards God then self dies, the strength of sin grows less, and the fruit of the Spirit is allowed to grow.
9. It is possible to become angry at this divine arrangement and long for no testing to take place. But since that is not going to happen then an adjustment must be made in the mentality of the mind to choose God and life eternal. Not life eternal as a quality of time, but life eternal as a relationship with the living God.
- *John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

10. Sometimes it does not seem that the Christian is capable of ceasing from repetitive sins. It seems that the strength of the Evil One is complete and Satan has taken the soul captive at his will.

11. However it is possible for a person to recover from this spiritual bondage.

- *2 Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

12. Spiritual recovery comes in the following manner.

- First, there must be present a deep longing to be different. Sin has never satisfied the soul and never will. The pleasures of evil are never permanent. The heart must want a divorce from its wedded sins.

“Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul’s Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright Heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.”

- Second, Christ must be enthroned while the world, flesh and devil are dethroned. Until that happens there will be the loss of blessing and victory in the inner life and loss of power in the outer life—the life of service.
- Third, the gift of true repentance must be sought. Repentance like faith is the gift of God. In Acts 11:18 it is recorded that “*God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life*”.
- Fourth, no provision can be made to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Sinful impulses die when they are not fed or supported in any manner.

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

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.

- Fifth, the heart must be guarded through prayer and watchfulness.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Sixth, a plan of action must be set in place before the hour of temptation comes. Standards must be established.