

Sunday, Jan. 3rd, 2009

Living Hope EFC

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The Glorious ministry of the Holy Spirit in every Christian (Part 2): Rom.8:12-17

Joke: A pastor had gone to a new church. One lady, wanting to compliment him on his preaching, said to him one Sunday:

"Pastor, our church didn't know what sin was until you became pastor."

The church at Rome likely had the same response to Paul as they read Rom.1-7. The plight upon mankind is universal & complete.

- **Sin has defiled man in every part of his soul: Rom.8:5-8.**

In Chap.5, God overcame sin's judgment, death's reign through Adam.

In Chap.6, How God freed us from sin's power & reign in our nature.

In Chap.7, Our inability to will righteousness & keep God's moral law.

In Chap.8, The weakness of flesh is overcome by the life of the Spirit.

- **We have come all the way from condemnation (Rom.1-3), to glorification with Christ!**
- Sin is the #1 issue and influence upon the human race from Gen.3 – Rev.20!

“Without Christ's work on the cross there is no salvation. Without the presence and constant operation of the Holy Spirit there would be no application of that salvation.” –Newell, 287

Sanctification is the work of the HS in the regenerated life of a believer, delivering the believer from the power of sin, even in the very presence of sin, and performing all God's will in the life of the believer. –McGee, 695

Review of our last study:

In Romans 8 – Paul describes the special ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who carries out the Father & Son's mission to gather a bride for the Son.

We have pointed out several of the Spirit's ministries:

1 – He sets us free from the power of sin & death – V.1-2.

2- **Vs.4:** He meets the righteous requirements of Law in us.

- Phil.2:13. – Gal.5:16, "Live by" 22-23. **John 7:38-39.**

3- He provides us with a new mind set, V.5.

- Rom.12:2, Col.3:1

4- The Spirit produces life and peace in us, V.6.

- Paul draws the polarity between these two sources of living.

5- He universally indwells all believers forever, V.9

- Christ foretold this ministry of the HS: **John 3:5-6; 14:17-18.**

1. **The Holy Spirit** the divine Agent applying God's salvation the moment a person believes in Christ: Eph.1:13.
2. **His indwelling is a continuous, permanent &** never ending. Eph.4:30
3. **He does not leave even when we sin:** compare 7:14-18 & 8:1-39.

6 – The Holy Spirit regenerates each believer: Tit.3:5-6.

Regeneration means "rebirth" by participating in the divine nature. The Spirit imparts into our soul the life of God constituting us His *children*.

7 – The Holy Spirit Baptizes us into the Body of Christ: 1 Cor.12:13

There are two aspects to baptism:

- (1) The Spirit unites us to Christ's death-resurrection accomplishments.
- (2) We are united to the church, the body of Christ, 1 Cor.12:13, Eph.4:5

There are several issues resulting in confusion about the baptism of HS:

- It occurs only once, at the beginning of conversion, & is not repeated.
- It is experienced by all believers. 1 Cor.12:13 says all are baptized.
- **Note: Corinth** included believers of a variety of spiritual conditions.
- It is a sovereign work of God, we're never told to seek to be baptized.
- First occurrence was Acts 2. (Acts 1:5 yet ahead, 11:15-16 look back)
- You were baptized by the Spirit when you put your faith in Christ.

8 – He seals us, guaranteeing our passage to heaven: Eph.1:13-14

The Holy Spirit acts as our Guarantee that we will experience eternal life.

"Sealed:" A seal was used to: (1) Mark/ identify one's property, **ownership** (a *branding iron*, serial number). (2) Make something **secure, protected** (*registered mail*). (3) Confirm something as **genuine** & true (the *king's seal*, an autograph on a painting).

- The Holy Spirit (God Himself) is our seal of security & ownership.

"Deposit:" A down payment, a pledge or promise, partial payment guaranteeing the full payment in the future. - **Rom.8:23 "1st fruits."**

- A guarantee UNTIL... our full redemption. –**Eph. 4:30.**

(TODAY)

9 – The Spirit also gives us gifts for serving in the church: Rom.12

We are especially equipped to serve the Church! More later...

These are all "sovereign works" of the Holy Spirit, in claiming a bride for Christ. They are not conditioned or dependent upon us.

10 - The one *conditional* work of the Spirit is His Filling: Eph.5:18

While we are never exhorted to be baptized, sealed, or indwelt...we are commanded to be "filled" with the Spirit.

Filling: has to do with the extent of control that the Holy Spirit (God) has in our lives. "Don't be controlled by wine, or anything other than the HS.

- As being drunk controls our conduct, so the Spirit must control us.
- **"Be filled:" Pres., pass. impv. It is our continuous responsibility!**
- The Christian is to continually be under the influence of God's Spirit.

1- Recognize the difference between "being filled" & "maturity."

- Every Christian may be "spiritual" and walk in the Spirit's influence. Maturity is the result of growth, testing, time: (1 Pet.2:2; 2 Pet.3:18).

ILLUS: Children, Health VS Physical Growth

- **A child can be immature, yet perfectly healthy.**
- Growth takes time, food, exercise, development. Health – is daily.
- As Christians we should be spiritually healthy – every day, in order to grow properly. **Our growth to maturity depends on our daily health.**
- Our nutrition: God's Word. Our strength: God's Spirit. Our exer- cise: walk in truth. **James** 1:22-25; **Matt.**7:24-25; **Heb.**5:11-6:2,12

Q: What is your spiritual age? What is your spiritual maturity? Can you help disciple a new believer if asked to? If not, what do you need to do to become a "disciple-making" Christian? (Nav.2.7 Discipleship Course)

2. There are 2 negative commands, warning us what can keep us from being filled:

Eph.4:30 "Don't grieve." 1 Thes.5:19 "Don't' quench.

- **Grieving:** What grieves a parent's heart in their child? Disobedience.
- **What grieves or quenches the HS?** - Ans: Not walking according to the Spirit's described lifestyle. Walking in the flesh: Rom.8:5-8.

3. Synonyms for "being filled" are: **Walk with the Spirit -Gal.5:16.**

- **"Walk:" Pres.,Act.,Impv.** When we obey the teaching of God's Word, yielding ourselves to the Spirit's influence, we walk in the Spirit.

You may say: "But I can't do that consistently for 20,30,40 years."

- **Q: Can you do it this moment?** The next moment...
- To walk with the Spirit will keep us healthy, so we grow & mature.

Our tendency is to look at ourselves, our past, track record, and doubt!

- **We are asked to walk by faith, not by sight.** Our example: Rom.4:17f
- God called us, justified us, and equipped us to be His new creations.
- **Rom.**12:1-2; **8:9-14.** His grace is sufficient for us.

11. The Spirit enables us to stop serving sin & serve God instead.

8:12: Set free from the law of sin (8:2), the flesh condemned by Christ (8:3), the Spirit enabling us to fulfill the requirements of God's law (8:4), indwelt permanently by the HS, Christ in us, our old man crucified, resur- rection life in us (8:11)—**it stands to reason our obligation to flesh is over!**

- Flesh is still there. It still tries to pull us in its direction of "death." And the fact is, many Christians give in to the flesh & serve it.

ILLUS: Road rage case: Vehicular Homicide! - *This is serious business!*

8:13: But God has enabled us, by the Spirit, to **put to death** the body's sinful acts, and experience the life abundant that Christ came to give us.

- HOW? What is the process? - Rom.6:11-14!
- This is walking "with/in dependence upon the Spirit's strength & life."
- And notice, this is God's *only answer* to not live under sin.

8:14: It is in this context that we understand verse 14.

- To live in acknowledgment of the Spirit's life within us and to pursue the concerns and lifestyle the Spirit & Word of God teach...is to be "**led by the Spirit.**" And those indwelt by the Spirit are Sons of God!

8:15-17: Paul's glorious announcement about **the heights** to which the Christian has been raised by Christ's saving work.

- **We are Son's of God**, God is our intimate Father (**Matt.5:** "Our Father...), we are His children & heirs, joint heirs of Jesus Christ...
- "**Inasmuch as** we have suffered with him, that we may be **glorified with Him.**" -V.17. – (See v.18f)

FROM CONDEMNATION TO GLORY!

While the Cross will hold eternal significance for us, **the Cross is God's means to a glorious end.**

- Sin legally taken out of the way, our Father pours out His heavenly wealth – upon His bride!
- *Our eternity in God's presence is settled.*
- His goal & purpose has **always been:** "To make a people who are His very own, (**Titus 2:11-14**)." **To display His glory in man.**

ILLUS: New TV, without Cable.

Let's say you're asked to come over to a friend's house on Super bowl Sunday. He has a new big-screen TV. Latest technology. HD.

- After months of research, much \$, he bought the best!
- You go. It's game time. He turns on the TV. All you get is snow.
- "*Did you get it hooked up to cable?*" "I forgot!"

POINT: A smaller, less expensive TV hooked up to cable will out perform the latest & best equipped unit, with no cable access.

POINT: The ordinary Christian, walking in the Spirit, will do what the natural man with exceptional gifts can never do.

- A man or woman can have the best education money can buy, natural talents & gifts, high IQ, wealth, come from a good family – but without the influence of God's Spirit – he has no spiritual power.
- You cannot give what you do not have. If you want to live the Christian life God prescribes – you must be filled with His Spirit.

Here is the great MIRACLE that God wants to work into every Christian's life.

- **You will notice that in the heart of the Gospel's explanation that Paul does not instruct us on how to experience physical healing, nor give us the seven laws of financial success & prosperity...but how to live lives that are freed from sin's mastery!**
- **In a world system that covets & glorifies money, health, success, achievement, prosperity...THE REAL MIRACLE are people Paul describes in Titus 2:11-15! This is SUPERNATURAL living!**

This should be our New Year's resolution!