

Sunday, Dec.13, 2009

Living Hope EFC

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The Glorious ministry of the Holy Spirit in Every Christian: Rom.8:9-17

ILLUS: Ravi Zacharias' story of the man recovering a suitcase. 151.

The Bible is the greatest treasure on planet earth!

- It alone tells of a God who loves sinful man enough to die for him.
- Money cannot buy what God's redemption offers to every person.
- It contains truth that turns reprobate sinners into sacrificial saints.
- It brings new life into a person's soul – so as to transform him into a new creation. ***This change is what Paul is describing in Rom.8:5-17.***
- Whereas man without God will not and cannot obey God's law, a man in whom God's Spirit lives – is God's child & acts like Him.

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.

- “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

Today I'd like to focus our time on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in & to the Christian. Nothing is more important for the Christian to understand.

We pointed out several of the Spirit's ministries last week:

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

- **ILLUS-** Gravity. Rom.7:21-23 - SIN.

“Law of sin & death”=Sin produces death! All sin, all die.=Unbreakable.

“Law of Spirit of Life” = By faith in Christ the H.S. gives eternal life.

- This life is a judicial justification, and life that is imparted to our soul.

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

The HS is the same moral and spiritual height as the Lord Jesus.

- The Spirit within our soul – creates a new heart, mind, and will – “after the Spirit's desires.” - Phil.2:13. – Gal.5:16,“Live by” 22-23.

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

The mind of Christ & the Spirit – is in **total contrast** to the mind of flesh.

-Our true treasures (**Ravi's story**): Matt.6:21,24. –Our k'dom: Matt.6:10.

-Marriage:Matt.5:31. –God's Word: Matt.7:24. –Rom.12:2, Col.3:1

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

5- He Universally indwells all believers, V.9

Rom.8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

- That which makes a Christian a Christian is possession of God's Spirit
- **No Spirit** = Not a Christian. A Christian = You have God's Spirit.
- Christ foretold this ministry of the HS: **John 3:5-6; 7:38-39; 14:17-18**

John 3

⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, **no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.** ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but **the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. **So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**

John 14

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you *another Counselor to be with you forever*— ¹⁷the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **will be in you.** ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

- There is no conversion apart from the Holy Spirit.
- The presence of the indwelling Spirit is presupposed everywhere in the NT, by the kind of life expected in the Christian!

1. The Holy Spirit is a gift, the divine Agent applying God's salvation the moment a person believes in Christ: Eph.1:13; Gal.3:2-3,5; 4:6.

Eph.1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

2. His indwelling is a continuous, permanent abiding presence beginning at salvation and never ending. Eph.4:30.

Eph.4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

3. He does not leave even when we sin: compare 7:14-18 & 8:1-39.

- **Christians are never warned in the NT that they may lose the HS.** They are rather exhorted to live godly lives because the H.S. has taken up residence within them: 1 Cor.6:19-20,11.

1 Cor.18-20 ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality... ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

4. While *yieldedness* is a necessary condition for the Spirit's control in our lives, *indwelling* is His unconditional ministry of redeeming us.

This leads us to acknowledge several distinct ministries of the Spirit to the Church – not produced before the time of Christ in the same way.

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

Tit.3:5-6.

⁵He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of *rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Regeneration means “rebirth” by participating in the divine nature.

The Spirit imparting into our soul the very life of God, constituting us *God's children*. In Titus 3:5...

- παλιγγενεσίας = adv. παλιν, “again, once more, anew.” Plus:
γενεσια = “birth or existence.” = **Born again!** - 2 Pet.1:3-4, Heb.2:11

2 Pet.1:3-4. ³His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

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, separating us from our past ties to Adam and sin, Rom.6:1-10.

(2) We are united to the church, the body of Christ, 1 Cor.12:13, Eph.4:5

1 Cor.12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the *one Spirit* to drink.

There are several important things to understand about “baptism:”

- 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.
- This is interesting because **Corinth** included believers of a variety of spiritual conditions. = ***Carnality* does not exclude from baptism.**
- It is a sovereign work of God, we’re never told to seek to be baptized.
- The first occurrence was in Acts 2. Christ said it was coming (Acts 1:5), and Acts 11:15-16 looks back at it as the Spirit’s baptizing work.
- 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.

Eph.1:13-14

¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

There are three passages in the N T referring to the Spirit’s sealing

Eph.1:13-14

“Sealed:” A seal was used to (1) Mark/ identify one’s property, **ownership** (a *branding iron*, serial number). (2) To make something **secure, protected** (*registered mail*). (3) To confirm something as **genuine** & true (a stamp, 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.**

2 Cor.1:21-22

2 Cor.1:21-22

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He *anointed us*, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put *his Spirit* in our hearts as a deposit, *guaranteeing what is to come.*

"Stand firm:" To establish, confirm; a guarantee.

"He put **His seal of ownership** on us, gave us the Spirit as **a deposit guaranteeing** what is to come."

POINT: This is another of the Spirit's sovereign ministries to the church.

- ***In the N.T. there is never an appeal*** for anyone to be sealed, it is done by God at conversion. ***It is a universal ministry to all believers.***
- The Holy Spirit indwells & secures us as God's possession, God's children, guaranteeing that all God has promised us will happen.

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, eager to do what is good."*** **To display His glory in man.**

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

- 2 Cor.4:7-12.

And to think...**it all started with a Baby** – born to a teenage Jewish girl.

It was this treasure in an earthen vessel – **Who brought the wealth of heaven with Him, to give to you and me** – 2,000 years later.

Q: To what extent the Spirit in control of us? Our heart, mind, tongue, material wealth, family, marriage, business?

- **Are you a display of God's glory / likeness on earth?**