

Lesson #5—The Enablement of the Holy Spirit for the Daily Life.

Introduction

- A. In the last lesson we considered many of the passages of the Bible which indicated how the Holy Spirit brought us to salvation and what His ministry in this area of our life meant.
1. We realized that it was the work of the Holy Spirit to apply in our life the work Jesus Christ performed for us in His Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and even in the Day of Pentecost.
 2. Because of this representative work of the Lord Jesus and its application in our life by the Holy Spirit—we are now seen as "complete" in Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:10)
- B. This now sets the stage for the topic before us. We understand that our "completeness" in Christ is a reality but we also realize it is largely potential as far as the power, experience, and joy is concerned.
1. In these few moments before us we want to enquire concerning the provision God has made for us, in the Holy Spirit, so that we may live in the fullness of the experience of God's grace.
 2. The implication in these statements is very evident in many of us. It is one thing to be a believer—but it is another to live with a measure of growth, fellowship and spiritual fulfillment. The reason for this is at least fourfold: (a) many believers do not know what provision God has made for their daily life; (b) many believers have never been taught how to put that provision into practice; (c) many believers do not live the Christian life the way they should; and, (d) many believers have been so hurt and discouraged it is hard for them to consistently try to live for God.
 3. All of us need help. I trust this lesson may do that for you.



I. The Enablement of the Holy Spirit in Regard to Preservation, Romans 8:1-11.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

For **the law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus **hath made me free** from the law of sin and death...

...**who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but **they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit...**

But ye are **not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now if **any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but **the Spirit is life because of righteousness....**

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit** that dwelleth in you.

Observations:

1. These many verses indicate a great truth: one provision of God to maintain the believer's state of salvation is the person and work of the Blessed Holy Spirit.
2. Due to the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, and within us day by day, the believer, according to these verses, will not have the characteristic of "...walking (living) after (according to) the flesh (a

sinful pattern of life, Rom. 7:18, 21, 23, 24).” We may, as a believer, commit sin, but we will not live a life characterized by or in bondage to known sin. Is it possible to be a believer and still be tempted and struggle with sin? Yes. Is it possible to be a believer and to be continually characterized and in submission to known sin? No.

3. To “...walk (live) after (according to) the Spirit” means to live in harmony with the purpose of the Spirit’s indwelling. He has come to glorify the Lord Jesus (John 16:13, 14). Every true believer will therefore be more characterized by truth than pretense, by love than selfishness, by holiness than sensuality.
4. One important factor in His work within us may not be overlooked. He indwells us to preserve us as believers. This does not mean that our part is to be a passive, uncooperative, and lazy response. When we live like that we grieve the Holy Spirit and quench much of what He desires to produce within us as fruit. We must learn how to cooperate with Him and make the right choices.
5. We must be profoundly grateful to the Holy Spirit for His work of preservation.

II. The Enablement of the Holy Spirit in Regard to Sanctification, Romans 8:12-16.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die. **But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

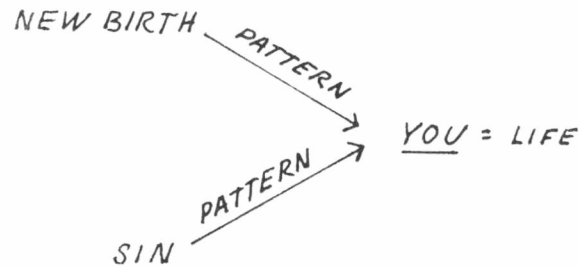
...ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Observations:

1. These verses overwhelm us with the abundance of God’s provision for the success of our daily life.
2. If we are to be successful the blueprint that is here presented must be carefully followed.
 - a. We must choose not to live according to the flesh (sinful patterns of responses which all of us have deeply ingrained within us.)
 - b. We must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to mortify (put to death) the manifestations of the flesh (sinful patterns) as they are expressed in our body (physical body and the bodily relationships of life).
 - c. We must recognize all of this working of the Holy Spirit in our life as an expression of His instruction that we belong to God.
3. The most important facet of the work of the Holy Spirit in our daily life has to do with the uniting of two great truths.
 - a. Truth #1 is found in Romans 6:1-19 where we are taught that we died in Christ’s death and were resurrected in His Resurrection. The spiritual deliverance and freedom of this was legally given to us in the new birth. This provides the spiritual power we need to live successfully.
 - b. Truth #2 is found in the passage before us. The Holy Spirit seeks to lead us into applying the work of the Crucifixion and Resurrection by “mortifying” (putting to death, dealing drastically, repudiating) the deeds (expressions) of the body (fleshly patterns of action). When we choose to say “No!” to the various temptations that come to us—we become the recipient of the power of Christ’s work—through the Holy Spirit—and thereby receive strength to be free from sin and live in holiness.
4. The real issue in this passage has to do with a practical and realistic choice to say “No!” to all those areas of sin which we see within and about us—our pride, jealousy, selfishness, pretense, envy, anger, impatience, self-righteousness, grudges, disobedience, preference of self, gossip, criticism, disobedience, self-justification, sensuality, covetousness, self-pity, lying, greed, unbelief, lack of compassion, hopelessness, anxiety, (now that you have seen my list of sins—add a few from your own),

5. All of this reminds us that each of us has a great potentiality for both good and evil. The Holy Spirit dwells with us to help us—when we choose to follow His leading—to live successfully for the glory of God.



III. The Enablement of the Holy Spirit in Regard to Prayer, Romans 8:26, 27.

Likewise **the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities**, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And **he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit**, because **he maketh intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.

Observations:

1. What a comfort these verses bring to the sincere Christian! How wonderful to know that the Holy Spirit is our "Helper" in regard to the weaknesses of our daily life.
2. In particular His help is here described as that of intercession.
 - a. First of all we recognize this is referring to a form of intercession which is carried on for us by the Holy Spirit Himself. He knows our deepest spiritual longings (groanings) and He expresses all of this on our behalf. The deep cry of our heart, which we cannot utter, is known by God through the prayers of our "Helper".
 - b. There is also the implication of these verses which is clearly taught elsewhere—the Holy Spirit enables us to pray. He not only prays for us, He works with us so that we are led and strengthened in prayer. (Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20)
 - c. All of this lays the groundwork for our prayer life. What a wonderful "Helper" we have in the Holy Spirit of God. How we must grieve and quench Him when we do not pray!

IV. The Enablement of the Holy Spirit in Regard to Personal Fulfillment.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost**. Romans 14:17

Now the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit**. Romans 15:13

Observations:

1. These verses remind us of a very important aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit—making Christianity practical in our daily life so we may be fulfilled people.
2. God created us in the Garden of Eden with an unlimited potentiality to be a fulfilled and happy person through our walk with Him. In the Fall of Man we not only lost the possibility of such fulfillment we now have an unlimited potentiality for unfulfillment—loneliness—despair—hopelessness—fear—depression—disappointment—(the list is endless).
3. When we became a believer through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we again were brought to the place where our potentiality for daily success, and thus fulfillment, was a possibility.
4. It is important to recognize the areas where our fulfillment is to be found:

- a. Righteousness—the knowledge of our righteousness in Christ (Rom. 5:1; 8:3, 4), and the daily practice of that in doing what is right.
 - b. Peace—the knowledge of our relationship of peace with God (Rom. 5:1), and the daily practice of the assurance of this peace and then being a “peacemaker” as seen in Matthew 5:9.
 - c. Joy—the knowledge of the gift of joy since we are believers (John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13; Gal. 5:22; I John 1:4), and the daily practice of this enablement by faith.
 - d. Hope—the knowledge of this characteristic of salvation as described in I Peter 1:3, and the practice of this life-changing attitude of regarding the future with an expectancy (of God’s faithfulness and blessing) of faith.
5. Again in these verses we have the twofold emphasis of the daily life: the work of the Holy Spirit and our cooperation by faith. In both verses His power and ministry is emphasized and in Rom. 15:13 we are reminded of the necessity of “believing”.

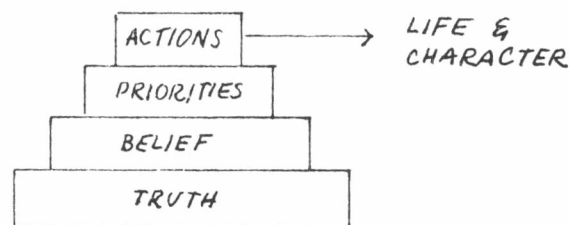
V. The Enablement of the Holy Spirit in Regard to Priorities of Liberty.

This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**
For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that you would.
But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Galatians 5:16-18

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:25

Observations:

1. This chapter starts out with the exhortation to “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...” This is not only referring to the bondage of false teaching, but also to the loss of freedom and slavery which comes through “fleshly living”.
2. We see in these verses (v17) the possibility of a conflict in the life of the believer. The presence of the Holy Spirit and His ministry in our life is antagonistic to the priorities and values which relate to a sinful manner of life.
3. By means of the Holy Spirit we can maintain our liberty in Christ. He will lead us, as we cooperate with Him, into a way of life that is characterized by obedience (“...not under the law”) and a practical expression of spiritual priorities.
4. We all have to admit that the need we have is a very practical one. It is largely in the area of daily priorities. Too often we seem to be quite helpless, at least that is the way we feel, about changing our priorities and values. Here again is the assurance of the Holy Spirit’s help.
5. This only comes about in your life and mine as we make the right choices, in dependence on God, to live according to correct values. This is not easy to do—but our “Helper” is infinite in power. It is important that we maintain the liberty which we received in our salvation.



VI. The Enablement of the Holy Spirit in Regard to Spiritual Strength, Ephesians 3:14-19.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man,

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, **that** ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height,
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that** ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Observations:

1. One of the first truths that strikes us in the prayer before us is God's concern and provision for our "inner man". God is more than "interested" in how we are on the "inside", He is compassionate, concerned, and seeks to minister to our well-being.
2. The term "strengthened with might" refers to the enablement which the Holy Spirit seeks to communicate to us. This has to do particularly with the spiritual ability to respond to God by faith, claim the promises of the Word, practice the truths of the Bible — all in preparation for and to lay the groundword for the three petitions of the prayer:
 - a. That Christ may dwell (be at home) in your hearts. The emphasis here is on a life of fellowship and compatibility with God.
 - b. That you, being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend . . . the love of Christ. This indicates God's concern for us. He is compassionately reaching out to us so that we may know His love for us.
 - c. That you might be filled with all the fulness of God. This is a reminder that God seeks to be involved in all the areas of our life. He desires to bless us, fellowship with us, and cause us to be fruitful for His glory — in every area.
3. The Holy Spirit dwells within us to make these petitions a reality in our spiritual experience. We need to pray, express our desire for His will as stated in this prayer, and seek to cooperate with Him day by day. We must daily bring the goals and priorities of our daily life into harmony with His.

Conclusion:

- A. As we look at these six areas of our life in the light of the will and provision of God for us — we have a tendency to faint! How could we ever live like that?
- B. God knows our weakness! That is the reason for the blessed Holy Spirit. He is our "Helper" to slowly and compassionately lead us into an understanding and experience of God's will for our daily life. Let's trust Him together to help us.