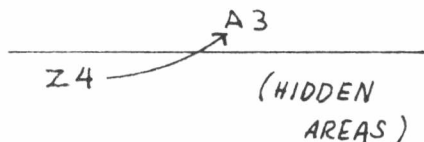


Lesson #6—The Exhortations Regarding the Holy Spirit in the Daily Life.

Introduction

- A. As we read the Bible we recognize that the love of God is manifested in many ways. The entire Scripture testifies to the truth that He has come to rescue us!
- B. In the last lesson we considered the provision that has been made for us in regard to the daily life. We now understand more fully how the Holy Spirit is not only the one Who initiates the new birth but that He indwells us to continually enable us to live successfully.
- C. One serious problem in all of us has to do with our failure to realize how deeply we need help.



- 1. We are often so preoccupied with one need that we are blinded to those that are more important.
- 2. Many times the immediate need that overwhelms us is only a symptom of the genuine need—which is quite hidden from us. When this is true the "problem" remains even though we work hard at it.
- 3. God has come to rescue us and one of the evidences of that has to do with the exhortations He gives to us in regard to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is often helpful to consider carefully this counsel and to practice His instructions by faith, love, and hope.

I. The Believer is Exhorted to be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

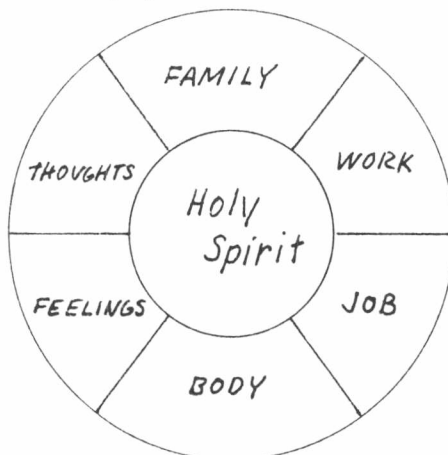
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but **be filled with the Spirit**, **Speaking** to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Submitting** yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:19-21

Observations:

- 1. The reference to drunkenness in V19, in being condemned, is utilized as an illustration of the filling of the Holy Spirit. Wine will bring about first a subtle and then a more and more obvious influence on the drinker. We are thus taught that the filling of the Holy Spirit has to do with a progressive surrender of life to the influence and ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. There is, however, a marked contrast between the influence of wine and the influence of the Holy Spirit. In the former the individual becomes more and more passive — in the latter the individual becomes more and more active. The Holy Spirit never takes over our daily responsibilities for thinking correctly, for making choices, and for doing the will of God. All of this we are to do — with His divine enablement. As we become more and more aggressive in doing the will of God — He can provide the necessary wisdom, direction of life, and required strength. What a glorious thing it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.



3. One further word of clarification is needed. To be filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean that we receive more of Him as a Person. It is correct to say that He receives more of us — by way of surrender, faith, and obedience. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that it means a progressive spiritual control of the various areas of our life. The "filling of the Holy Spirit" is not simply a once-for-all act which is accomplished in its completeness. The Greek text speaks of a continual ministry a 'be being filled' concept.
 - a. When I surrender my thought life to God and trust Him to enable me to think for His glory — that area of my life is more and more brought under the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. If we wish to be filled with the Holy Spirit this will provide a blueprint for us. It is essentially the choice of faith to live in the will of God in all of the areas of life. This would have to do with our thoughts, emotions, how we fulfill our bodily desires, how we use our functions of speech and sight. It has to do with our relationships with others, the church, the job, the family. It has to do with our use of money, talent, time, and possessions. Even more important than all of these, while including them, would be the various facets involved in our relationship with God, in expressing our faith, love, and hope, and in keeping the commandments and exhortations He has given to us.
4. It is interesting to see how this exhortation is introduced in the Bible by the following words:

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17

From this verse it is obvious that at least one facet of the will of God — which we are to understand — is being filled with the Holy Spirit. To summarize it all we could say — God, the Holy Spirit, seeks to be involved in all the areas of our daily life!
5. The evidence of being filled is found in Vs 19-21. The ministry of the Holy Spirit will be manifested in at least three areas of our daily life. The joy of the Lord—thanksgiving—submission. It is interesting how these are in direct contrast to what it means to be a self-centered, unfruitful Christian.

II. The Believer is Exhorted to Mortify the Deeds of the Body.

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. Romans 8:12-16

Observations:

1. Since this passage has been covered in the last lesson the emphasis here will be on the reason for and the meaning of this as an exhortation.
2. The two words which introduce this section of Romans form the background of thought which we must understand.
 - a. The word "therefore" refers to the gracious provision of God as carefully described in Chapter 5 through 8:10. It is helpful to remember that we were involved in the work Jesus Christ performed for us. We did die in Him and we are resurrected in Him. We are, therefore, not to approach this exhortation concerning the daily life as helpless, deprived people under no obligation.
 - b. The second word, "debtor" reminds us of the type of obligation that has come to us simply because we are believers. We have a profound responsibility to God, to others, and to ourselves to live in the freedom which has been provided for us. The essential point, in this passage, is that we are under a solemn obligation (debtor) to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and cooperate with Him in mortifying (putting to death) all the manifestations of sin. This is done by claiming by faith the power of the Crucifixion and Resurrection and saying "No!" to sin. When we do so the Holy Spirit can help us.

3. God exhorts us to do this because He loves us. No Christian understands how deeply he needs to do this daily. So many of the problems and difficulties which we have in our daily life are caused by our own neglect of such counsel. It is often difficult for us to face some facet of reality ("I am married", "I am a parent", "I am in debt", "I am a student", "I am a Christian", "I have given my word", "I have died in Jesus Christ", "I have been resurrected in Jesus Christ", "I have the ability, time, and money to help", "What I am doing is sinful", "I have a grudge", "I am selfish", "I do not want that person to succeed", "I am doing the right thing", "God has accepted me in Jesus Christ"...).

III. The Believer is Exhorted to Walk in the Spirit.

This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16
If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit**. Galatians 5:25

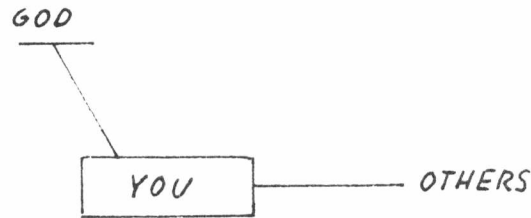
Observations:

1. This exhortation refers to living in harmony with the person of the Holy Spirit and the plan He has for our life.
 - a. The person of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1). He is the Holy Spirit—we must be through with all unholiness.
 - 2). He is absolute in Truth—we must be through with all pretense.
 - 3). He is absolute in Love—we must be through with all selfishness.
 - 4). He is the Spirit of Adoption—we must be through with doubt.
 - 5). He is the Spirit of Grace—we must be through with inferiority.
 - b. The plan of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1). He has come to glorify the Lord Jesus—that must be our goal.
 - 2). He has come to bear His fruit in our lives—that must be our character.
 - 3). He has come to bear witness through our lives—that must be our service.
2. All of us live (walk) according to some pattern of life. Here we are exhorted to make the daily choice to live according to the pattern found in Jesus Christ, as made known in the Scripture, and taught in your life and mine by the Holy Spirit. When we give heed to His blueprint of life—then we have His enablement—to successfully carry out His directives.
3. It is interesting to see that the word "walk" used in V16 is different from the word used in V25. The former has to do with a general, broad pattern of life. The latter refers to specific, carefully planned, individual steps. The instruction here is that the Holy Spirit seeks to be our "Helper" in all of the facets of our life.
4. Before we leave this passage of Scripture we must ask ourselves if we are obedient to this exhortation. Does our daily life manifest the work of the Holy Spirit? All of us can stand a great deal of help in this area.

IV. The Believer is Exhorted to Pray in the Spirit.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Ephesians 6:18

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Ghost**. Jude 20

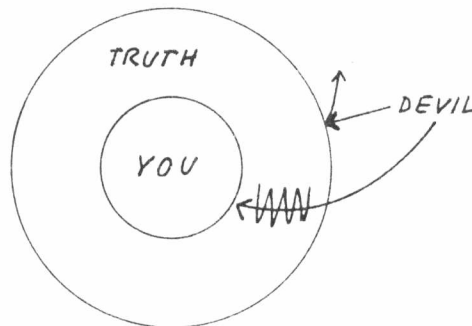


Observations:

1. In the last lesson we considered how the Holy Spirit prayed for us as our Intercessor. These passages instruct us in a further truth—He dwells within us to be our enablement to pray. To pray in the Spirit means at least three things.
 - a. Availability—we must be willing for the Holy Spirit to call upon us to pray. This must surely be a part of what it means to be surrendered to God. Are we available to carry a burden of prayer? Can the Holy Spirit bring people to our mind and lead us to pray for them?
 - b. The known will of God—this is the goal of our praying. Our life of prayer is not an ambiguous groping after unknown needs. It is the claiming of the promises of God and the will of God. John reminds us "...if we ask anything **according to His will**, He heareth us." (1 John 5:14)
 - c. Compassion and concern—this is the motivation behind our prayer life. Surely the Holy Spirit is concerned—and that concern we must share. We are to pray "in harmony with" the Holy Spirit. Too often we live a life largely devoid of prayer. The reason is right here—a lack of compassion and concern.
2. These verses speak of "praying in the Spirit" as a vital part of the normal Christian life. This again puts the responsibility back on us—too often we do not even sense our need for this kind of a life. We may know that we are not what we should be, in the daily life, but we often continue to live simply hoping that something will happen to us that will make us spiritual! Here is an exhortation that we must obey. Are you willing to restructure your day so you can take time to pray—trusting the Holy Spirit for His help?

V. The Believer is Exhorted to Take the Sword of the Spirit.

And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17



Observations:

1. This passage in Ephesians instructs the believer how to be strong (V10) and how to be able to stand against the work of the devil (V11). We are told to "put on" the armor provided by God (V11) and "take" the Word of God as a sword which the Holy Spirit will enable us to use.
2. Every believer is under the attack of Satan to some degree and in some area of his life. The Devil knows all about us. He knows about our ancestors, our family sins and weaknesses, and how we

are vulnerable to certain temptations. The Bible reminds us very carefully what the enemy can do to us. He can fill the heart of the believer (Acts 5:3). The believer can be physically, spiritually, and materially attacked (Job 1, 2; II Cor. 12:7), he can be hindered (I Thess. 2:18), deceived (Rev. 12:9, 10; II Cor. 11:3), tempted (I Cor. 7:5; I Thess. 3:5), ensnared (II Tim. 2:25, 26), devoured (I Peter 5:8, 9), "sifted as wheat" (Luke 22:31), made proud (I Tim. 3:6), brought into condemnation (I Tim. 3:6), under reproach (I Tim. 3:7), corrupted in mind (II Cor. 11:3), accused (Rev. 12:10), pushed into hypocrisy (Acts 5:1-11), and religious fanaticism (II Cor. 2:1-11), and made the object of "fiery darts" (Eph. 6:16). The believer can give a "place" (foothold or handhold) to Satan (Eph. 4:27).

3. Because we are so vulnerable to Satanic attack God has graciously provided the armor for us and the weapon of the Word of God.
4. What does it mean to "take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"?
 - a. This means we must recognize the Bible to be our offensive weapon to repel Satan's attack. We must therefore, use the Scripture as the weapon it is.
 - b. The example in the Scripture, of how to do this, is the way the Lord Jesus used the Word of God as a weapon against the enemy. He corrected and repelled the attack of Satan by quoting the Scripture and by choosing to live in harmony with its teaching. (Matt. 4:1-11) This is how each of us must live the daily life.
 - c. It is important to see that the enemy will always try to reach us with error or with a misuse of the truth. If he cannot get us to disobey God he will try to make us a fanatic about obedience and ruin our life that way. We must learn to correct our thoughts, our emotions, our desires, our aspirations, our manner of life, etc., by the Scripture. We must also reject, with the truth, the insinuation and accusations of the enemy. We have been given a weapon—we must use it as a good soldier of Jesus Christ!