

# Cooperating with the Holy Spirit's Ministry

## Introduction

- A. The work of the Holy Spirit is always that of application, development, enablement, and strengthening—whether in creation, salvation, service, or spiritual growth.
- B. Many glorious and powerful activities are attributed to the Holy Spirit: conviction (John 16:8-11), the new birth (John 3:3,5), baptism (1 Cor 12:13), sealing (Eph 1:13), indwelling (Eph 2:22), empowerment (Acts 1:8), illumination (1 Cor 2:9-13), gifting (1 Cor 12-14), cleansing (Rom 8:13), guidance (Rom 8:14), teaching assurance (Rom 8:15-17), fruitfulness (Gal 5:22,23), and the promise that He will resurrect us from the grave (Rom 8:11), to mention only a few.
- C. Why, if all of these glorious and powerful activities are a reality for every believer, why are we so often weak, discouraged, without assurance and unfruitful?
- D. There can be only one answer: **we do not believe and therefore do not practice these truths!** What we all have **legally** does not, therefore, become **our experience**.
- E. One major barrier to the power and enjoyment of the Holy Spirit's ministry is our failure to cooperate with Him. Consider the seriousness of this sin. It is the answer to those who ask, ***"I was once powerfully filled with the Spirit, where did the joy and power go?"*** Look up and meditate on 1 Cor 2:6-13.

## I. The Biblical Emphasis on Our Legal Possession of the Holy Spirit's Ministry.

- A. The description of our lost condition, Eph 2:11,12

*Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. Eph 2:12*

1. We were once **separate from Christ** \_\_\_\_\_
2. We were once **excluded from citizenship in Israel** \_\_\_\_\_
3. We were once **foreigners to the covenants of promise** \_\_\_\_\_
4. We were once **without hope** \_\_\_\_\_
5. We were once **without God in the world** \_\_\_\_\_

**Counsel: personalize this verse by saying out loud, "I was once ..." for each of the five descriptions, and thank the Lord it is not true for you now.**

B. The description of our saved condition, Eph 2:13-22 passim

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace...For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

1. In Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the blood of Christ.
2. He is our peace.
3. Through Him we have access to the Father by one Spirit.
4. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens.
5. But fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's Household.
6. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling.
7. In which God lives by His Spirit.

**Counsel:** personalize each of these statements by speaking the truth out loud.

**III. The Biblical Exhortation to put our Possessions into Practice.**

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ... and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them ... [make] the most of every opportunity ... understand what the Lord's will is ... be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Eph 5:8-21 passim*

1. We are to live children of light
2. And find out what pleases the Lord
3. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness
4. But rather expose them
5. Make the most of every opportunity
6. Understand what the Lord's will is
7. Be filled with the Spirit
8. Speak to one another with psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs
9. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord
10. Giving thanks to God the Father for everything
11. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Counsel:** personalize each statement by saying, "Today I choose to ..." and then do it. God's power is released in our life when we practice the truth.

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