

Cooperating With the Holy Spirit(1)

Introduction

A. As we read the Bible some of the greatest and most challenging promises have to do with the work of the Holy Spirit. Consider how the Lord Jesus told the Disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they were "clothed with power fronton high" by the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49)! And, consider the power and value of His gifts and fruit.

(1 Corinthians 12-14; Galatians 5:22,23)!

B. For many the wonderful promises in the Bible have turned out to be disappointing. Some have fasted, made serious choices, sought counseling, attended conferences, deepened their prayer life and Bible study, struggled to minister—all seemingly in vain.

C. The promises are true! And, the Holy Spirit and power are closely related in the Bible. The answer is found in the words "Keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). The baptism by the Spirit is the beginning of a process. And the process is a walk of faith, with mountain tops and deep valleys. It will help to surrender to the Holy Spirit and then cooperate with Him.

I. **The Goal of the Holy Spirit in Coming into the World.**

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes ...He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. **John 16:13,14***

Comment: This is where we must begin: Our Father's great plan to exalt the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit has come to carry out that plan in our daily life. Consider the importance of this truth. It is the context for understanding how to live in freedom, joy, power, fruitfulness and how to "Keep in step with the Spirit."

II. **The Goal of the Holy Spirit in Our Individual Lives.**

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind This is the first and greatest commandment.. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. **Matthew 22:37-40***

Comment: These verses state the goal the Holy Spirit has for us. And, He has come with all His wisdom and power to bring it to pass. If we love God the way He wants us to then—as the verses state—everything else will fall into place.

Consider this Biblical truth: All life and ministry is to grow out of loving God. The Holy Spirit's # 1 agenda is to develop that love so He can lead us into a life of joy and holiness and then a ministry of power and fruitfulness.

Too many believers have sought the power of the Holy Spirit—simply for power !

III. Cooperating with the Holy Spirit in the Light of His Goal.

- A. The Holy Spirit is a Person, and to "Keep in Step" involves personal cooperation.

The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. **Gal 6:8**

Comment: Where do we begin with cooperating with the Spirit? It is making a solid choice—to please the Holy Spirit by adopting His goal as our own. The goal of "pleasing God" is a practical expression of how to love God.

- B. The Biblical importance of pleasing God.

1. **It was the goal of the Lord Jesus.**

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.
John 5:30

2. It was the goal of Enoch.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death... For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. **Hebrews 11:5**

3. It was the goal of the Apostle Paul.

So we make it our goal to please him.... **II Corinthians 5:9**

4. It was the goal Paul learned to have by hard experience.

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. **1 Thessalonians 2:4**

5. It was the goal Paul taught His converts.

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. **1 Thessalonians 4:1**

6. It was the goal Paul counseled believers to have.

Live as children of light ... And find out what pleases the Lord.
Ephesians 5:8-10

7. It is the goal the Holy Spirit seeks to achieve in our life.

May the God of peace... work in us what is pleasing to him.
Hebrews 13:20,21

Conclusion: Let's surrender to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to teach us how to love/please God.

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