

The Holy Spirit and the Successful Christian Life (2)

Introduction

- A. The Lord Jesus said, " . . . without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5
- B. This is a frank reminder that the ability to live the Christian life is not our own. We cannot please God through self-effort. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him" Hebrews 11:6
- D. The Provision of God for daily enablement is the Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Church, which was born on the Day of Pentecost, is a baptized and anointed Church. When one becomes a believer today, he is made a member of that Church (I Cor. 12:13). As a consequence, through his relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, the believer is baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit and is enabled to carry out the Great Commission. The present day believer possesses all the value and power of Pentecost to live a successful Christian life.

I. The Believer is Born Again by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. John 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to apply the transforming power of the atonement to the believing sinner. As a result he becomes "born again." He is changed into a new person in that a radical and complete transformation is wrought in his inner self. This transaction is so overwhelming in its outworking that the individual is said to be "a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17

II. The Believer is Indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? I Cor. 3:16

What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Cor. 6:19,20

It staggers the imagination to think that a man could be the temple of God! However, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ – you are that temple! God dwells in you.

Question: if this is true – why is the effect in my life so minimal?

Answer: it is our failure in obedience! Note the instruction in I Cor. 6:20.

III. The Believer is Sealed with the Holy Spirit.

In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance unto the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory. Eph. 1:13,14

The presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer is analogous to sealing a document. It denotes ownership, authenticity, and protective security. Every believer is protected, designated as genuine, and marked as God's property.

IV. The Believer is Baptized by the Holy Spirit.

And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. Acts 1:4,5

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or **Gentiles**, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into **one** Spirit. I Cor. 12:13

By this great act of grace the believer is united to Jesus Christ and to all those who believe on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Due to this work of the Holy Spirit the believer automatically possesses all the rights and privileges of both of these relationships.

V. The Believer is Gifted by the Holy Spirit.

Put the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom . . . but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will. I Cor. 12:7-11

The Holy Spirit imparts to every believer some special gift for the work to which he has been called. No Christian is without a gift.

VI. The Believer is Anointed by the Holy Spirit.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. But the anointing which **ye** have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach **you; but** as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth and is no lie, **and** even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him. I John. 2:20,2

To be anointed is to possess an enablement. Here it is particularly that of spiritual understanding and ability. This is never a possession which may be exercised apart from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He has been sent to us to lead us into all truth and to be our divine Helper. John 14:16; 16:13

Conclusion

- A. Every area of need has been covered by the provision made possible through the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The believer must choose daily to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in His goal to glorify Jesus Christ. John 16:14