

Title: What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

Text:

Part 2

H 11

~~11~~

We are continuing our study of WHAT WE BELIEVE. And I want to draw your attention to Judson's church's statement of doctrine concerning the Holy Spirit. It says that we believe that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all Christians, one baptism, but many fillings." The indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all Christians.

I want to begin today by talking a little bit about the illustrations of the Holy Spirit that you find in the Bible.

Take your Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 3. Matthew chapter 3. The illustrations that we find in the Bible concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

One of the most common illustrations of that Holy Spirit that you will see on many Christian signs is the matter of the flame. Or, fire. Whether or not that is a veiled symbol of the Holy Spirit probable is questionable on the bases of scriptural usage. We might say that it might illustrate what happened on the day of Pentecost. Because the Bible says that tongues like fire appeared on each one of the disciples. But in truth it was only a simuly. It was like fire. It dosen't says that it was fire.

Most believe that the symbol of the Holy Spirit being fire comes from Matthew chapter 3. Now, whether that is true or not I will leave for you to judge. Look at Vs 11. John the Baptist is talking and he says: "As for me, I baptize you in water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, and He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

I do not believe that the fire, here, is referring to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. What the text says in Vs 11 is that when Christ comes He will baptize us with the Holy Spirit..that is one event...and fire. And that is another event.

If you want to know what the fire represents..that is clear from Vs 12..

Look at Vs 12.. "And His winnowing fork is in his hand, and He will thoroughly clean His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." So the fire of Vs 11 is the "unquenchable fire" of Vs 12. It is the unquenchable fire of God's judgement or Hell, itself.

But, that is where most folks get the illustration of the Holy Spirit when they speak of fire or a flame.

(2) Now, I would like you to turn, please, to John chapter 7. There is a second illustration of the Holy Spirit's ministry that is very commonly used. And that is of water. In John chapter 7, Jesus is doing something very interesting . It is on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. And it is a celebration of the Jews wandering in the wilderness and living in tents. And the end of that feast, on the eighth day, it is kind of interesting what Jesus did. Before I read it, let me tell you what the Jews did. The high Priest would go to the Temple and pull out the golden vessels of the Temple. And they would have a ceremony outside in the Temple area in which they would pour water out off the golden pitcher. Now, this was sybolic of how the Jews got water out off the rock when they were thirty in the wilderness. And water came out off that rock when Moses strick that rock. And water came out off that rock . And God meet the needs of the people who were thirsty in the dessert.

And jso they did that symbolical during the Feast of Tabernacles. Now, I know that it is that particulary day because John 7 verse 37 says: "Now on the last day, the great day of the feast."

So, I know what is taking place from my reading of Jewish history from the time of our Lord.

Now, I believe what we have here is the exact time that the high Priest are pouring the water out of those vessels. Jesus stands and the Bible says that He cried out. A literal translation would be that he shouted at the top of his voice. And that is obvious because of that great crowds of people who were required to attend these Feast.

Jews were required to attend three feasts. And that was Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Now, we do know from a remark from Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, that Jerusalem would swell in attendance to some two million people at feast time. It had a normal population of somewhere between 3 to 5 hundred thousand.

So, the Jews are coming from all over the world. There are 2 to 3 million of them. They are living in tents everywhere, and on this last day they are jammed into the Temple area. They are crowded in there. And they are watching this ceremony. And Jesus is there. And he is shouting at the top of his voice. And He is saying...Vs 37.. "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

Now, we learn an interesting thing here. According to I Cor. chapter 10, the rock, at the time of Moses, out from which the water came, he said that that rock is Christ.

Christ also indicates the same thing when he says, "If you are thirsty, you come to me and drink." The water is flowing out of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is given by Jesus Christ. And it is the water of everlasting life.

Here the Holy Spirit is represented by water which represents everlasting life.

Turn back to John 4, for a moment. In John chapter 4 Jesus is talking with a Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. And in this chapter we read in verse 14.. Jesus said to this woman, "whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

In the book of Revelation, also, we read in chapter 21 that there is going to be given to whoever wants it, a fountain of the water of life freely,"

Revelation 21:6

And in Revelation 22:17 it says, "whoever desires let him take the water of life without cost."

My friends, the only way you will ever have everlasting life is by the personal ministry and presence of the Holy Spirit of God.

Romans 8:9 says "if anyone does not have the Spirit of God, he doesn't belong to Him." You do not belong to Jesus Christ.

It is essential that everyone of us have the Holy Spirit of God in order to live forever. And that illustration of the Spirit, the water of life is very, very important. We must receive the Holy Spirit in order to have everlasting life. He is God almighty. And He is the God who gives everlasting life to us. And that is important.

Jesus said, when you receive the Holy Spirit he will be in you forever. The reason why I will live forever is because of the presence of the Holy Spirit of God in my life when I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(3) Now, there is another very common symbol of the Holy Spirit . Turn to Matthew chapter 3. In addition to water and fire, we also have the symbol of a dove. And you know that the dove has become a great symbol of the Holy Spirit of God.

In Matthew chapter 3 beginning at Vs 16 it says this: "And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him; and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Holy Spirit is like a dove. It does not say that He is a dove. Obviously He is not a dove. But His descent was like a dove. One text says that he descended in bodily form like a dove. Interesting language.

Now, there are certain symbols that bring things to our mind and we cannot help it. Thinking of the descent of a dove people have come to think of it as a symbol of PEACE. And I think that that is certainly true. It says that the Spirit of God rested on the Lord.

And so there is a symbol of peace in a person's ministry. And I like that. I don't see the Holy Spirit as a bat in my life. You know what I mean. Banging against the walls of my life. And I don't see Him as a ~~vulture~~ ^{VULTURE}. Tearing me apart. I see Him as a peaceful bird. The dove of the Holy Spirit. It is a beautiful thing.

But, I am not sure that is the point. You see, the Spirit is called THE HOLY SPIRIT in the Bible. Which is a symbol of purity. And I like this as it relates to the dove. Did you know that the dove is the only ~~bird~~ ^{birds} among all of God's creation of birds who is faithful to one mate over its entire life time? And how beautiful we would read in the song of Solomon chapter 4 verse 1 as the great lover, Solomon, is expressing his love and describing the beauty of his lover..and the song says: "How beautiful ~~you~~ ^{YOU} are , my darling. Your eyes are like doves."

It seems to me that what ⁱⁿ the lover saw ~~in~~ his beloved one was that of purity. The eyes of a dove. Known for its faithfulness to its mate. A symbol of purity. He is the Holy Spirit.

Interesting that out of 50 some usages of the word "dove" in the Bible the majority of them refer to the dove as a bird of sacrifice. The Jews tell us that the reason it was so valuable ^{For sacrifice} was because of its easiness ~~to~~ ^{to} handle. It is almost like it was prepared and designed to be sacrificed.

I don't want to read too much into all of this. But, the purity of the Holy Spirit's ministry..and the death of our Lord and His sacrifice for sin.. just a lot of things come into ~~my~~ ^{my} mind. The Holy Spirit is like a dove. And the Holy Spirit is like water.

(4) But, there is another symbol of the Spirit. Turn to John chapter 3. Our Lord Jesus gave us this wonderful symbol of the Holy Spirit of God, when he spoke to a ruler of his day. A teacher of the Jews. A member of the Pharisees. And the man came to Jesus by night to talk to him. We are not told what he said to Jesus other than he said that "no one can do these signs that ~~you~~ ^{you} do unless God is with him."

He seems to be curious about the ability and power and miraculous ability of Christ. But we are not told if he ask ^{any} other questions.

Perhaps they had discussed things for a period of time. We don't ^{really} ~~really~~ know. All we know is that Jesus said this to him..Vs 3."Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

(read vs 4-9)

No doubt about it. Jesus equates the wind with the Holy Spirit. In fact it is the same word in Greek. The wind and the Spirit.

Now, it is an illustration of the Spirit, I believe, for the following reasons:

(1) One, the work of the wind is invisible. And so is the Holy Spirit's ^{work} ~~work~~ in our Lives. Christians, I believe, remaind basical ignorant of the Holy Spirit's ministry, if they choose to do so, primarily because His ^{work is} ~~work~~ is invisible. You cannot put it into a test tub and see it. And sometimes there is a fine line between Christians who say that they are being controlled by the Spirit and those who say they are not, ^{or} ~~or~~ don't appear to ^{be} ~~be~~ Christians even. Sometimes they look the same. Unbelievers can program themselves in certain areas to appear mighty good. If you are just looking at outward appearances. So, some times, it is hard to tell. And this becomes a confusing matter to Christians.

How do you know when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. And so His work is invisible. Thus "wind" is a good illustration.

(2) His work is also sovereign. According to what Jesus said. "You don't know where the winds comes from. And you don't know where it is going." Ask any weather man. It is hard to chart the wind. And sometimes the wind changes for no reason at all. And, thus, it is a beautiful symbol of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

There are things like "people movements" in the history ~~of~~ the world that are unexplainable. Where the Holy Spirit of God begins to move in a certain culture and in a certain people. And multitudes are turning to Christ. And *you can hardly explain it.*

I think when you see this, you begin to realize how wonderful and sovereign and powerful is the Holy Spirit. Like the wind.

(need example on holy spirit working-his power)

Dear friends, what we need is the power of the Holy Spirit. That is ^{what} ~~is~~ we need. I don't know what it ^{will} ~~will~~ take. Maybe we need to get a ^{giant} ~~giant~~ 4x4 and hit some of us over the head. We need the Holy Spirit's power in our lives.

And we go on and go operating our lives in our own flesh..doing wonderful things..But not knowing and experieneing the power of the Holy ^{Spirit} ~~Spirit~~. This is ^{very important} ~~very important~~ to understand. The Holy Spirit is like wind.

() NOW, ^{Does} ~~DOE~~ WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DO? Let's back up and look at this. I ~~believe~~ believe there are basical 7 ministries of the Holy Spi^{rit}lit.

(1) Number one.. Turn to John chapter 16..Let me just give you 7 ~~ministries~~ ministries of the Holy Sp^{irit}rit. And I hope that some of these will get a wholed of your heart in a special way.

In John chapter 16 we learn that the Holy ^{Spirit} ~~Spirit~~ convicts unbelievers of sin, righteousness, and judgement. The Holy Spirit convicts unbelievers of sin, righteousness and judgement. You say,, "How does he do that?"

I do not believe He needs our help. I think he can do it independently ~~of~~ us. But, ~~acord~~ according to the teachings of Jesus the Holy Spirit acturally uses ~~believers~~ believers to do that.

How does the Holy Spirit convict your unsaved friends? The Bible teaches that He does it through believears.

Some times when I say that...I say "boy".. "Lord you probable should have come up with a better method. Because we usually mess it up. And we don't get involved like we should. But the Holy Spirit didn't and He decided to use believers to convict the unbeliever. Let me show you what I mean.

Look at Vs 7 of John 16.....(Read Vs 7 ~~on~~ and 8..emphase the word "YOU)

You see when the Holy Spi^{rit}lit comes to the believer, He will convict the world of sin, and righteousness, and judgment.

(2) The second thing that the Holy Spirit does is what we call the new birth or being born ~~again~~ again.

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit. That act by which he causes us to become believers. Turn to Titus chapter chapter 3. The book of Titus chapter 3.

You ask: "How is a person saved?" Well, we say that he believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is certainly true. But, you know, the ~~real~~ ^{real} way that he is born again..that he becomes a child of God..is by the regeneration of the Holy ~~Spirit~~ ^{Spirit}.

Titus chapter 3 verse 5 we read this:"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."

Isn't that wonderful? According to his mercy He saved us. HOW? Through the washing of regeneration----that means "to be born again"---and renewing--we are new creatures in Christ --by the HOLY Spirit of God.

The Bible is clear. The Holy Spirit regenerates us.

Now, turn over to I Peter chapter 1. Here we see that the Holy Spirit has an item ~~that~~ ^{that} He uses in order to cause the new ~~birth~~ ^{birth}..To cause regeneration.

I Peter 1:22.."Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart"...And the reason we can do that.....(Read..Vs 23-25)

WHAT IS THE IMPERISHABLE SEED? It is the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus christ.

HOW ARE WE BORN AGAIN? By the Word..By the gospel that was preached to you.

So, I put those two things together. I have the Holy Spirit using the imperishable seed of God's Word. And causing the new birth.

I think right at this point I need to stop and say a word to all of us who like to share our faith with our friends. And that is that non of us .. not one of us will ever cause the new birth to happen in any individuals life.. My friend if you think that you are greatly mistaken. When we go out and share our faith we do not by our talking or salesmanship or methods, talk anyone into the Gospel of our Lord.

Now, sometimes when we do we see the product of that. The product is a person who has never been regenerated. ~~But~~ ^{But Talked} into the church.

He becomes a church member, But he has never ~~been~~ born again by the Spirit of God. This is ^{very} important. People are saved by the power of the Holy Spirit using the Word of God.

So, ^{Very} therefore, what is my responsibility? ~~very~~ simple. To present the gospel of Christ. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

One other little point. We do not make the gospel powerful by the way we present it. Now, if ~~you~~ have been trained in soul witnessing and someone gave you that idea, just get it out of ~~your~~ head, right now. We do not make the Gospel powerful by the way we present it. The gospel already is the power of God unto salvation. And that doesn't make any difference whether I am carnal or spiritual. I happen to believe in being spiritual. It is much ^{more} ~~more~~ fun. Much ^{more} ~~more~~ joy. Much ^{more} ~~more~~ happiness. Why be upset, depressed, and defeated all the time.

But, that is not the key ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ making the gospel powerful. Some ~~pe~~ople teach that if you are filled with the Spirit you will lead more ~~pe~~ople to Christ. That is a false assumption not taught in the Bible. It may ^{or} ~~or~~ may not be true.

The thing that we need to understand is that God brings people to Christ. And the truth is, as all of us know who has done soul winning, He often uses carnal Christians. When we don't even feel like talking to people, God often puts us into a situation where we share the good news of the Gospel. This is very important to understand. God can use his Word. And he is not ~~de~~pendent upon the Human agency to make that Word powerful in some bodies life. That is why you should always share the gospel. And share the verses of scripture with people when you are witnessing. WHY? Because those verses have power. It will drive them baty. So, just present the Word of God. Keep it in front of them. Because, God the Holy Spirit, has promised. to cause the new ^{birth} ~~birth~~ by using the imperishable seed of the Word of God. That is very important.

(3) Now, a third ministry of the Holy Spirit is that He indwells and Baptizes the believer

And here is where Christians, as you well know, have some disagreements. And here in our church we don't want to cause anybody to feel bad. We just want to present the scripture. And read it as it is without getting into a lot of minor points. But it seems to me that our statement of faith is pretty clear. "We believe that every Christian is indwelled by the Holy Spirit." We do not believe you are a christian unless you have the Holy Spirit. And we cannot put Christians into two camps. Some who have the holy Spirit and some who do not. All Christians in our theology have the Holy Spirit of God. You are indwelt by the Spirit.

Now, to support this position with Scripture, turn, please, to I Cor. chapter 6. A statement that you have probable heard before goes like this: "it isn't a question as to whether we have the Holy Spirit, but whether the Holy Spirit has us." That is the question.

But, does every Christian have the Holy Spirit? I think the Bible is very clear on this issue. I Cor 6:19 says.. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own. For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."

Now, that is pretty clear, dear friends. The Bible teaches that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

You say, "well, maybe that is talking only about spirit filled Christians. NO, IT IS NOT.

Turn back to chapter 3. I Cor. chapter 3 verse 1.. "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ."..Vs 3.. "for you are still fleshly."

So, you see, Paul wrote to a carnal group of believers and said.. "do you not know that ~~our~~ ^{your} body is a temple of the Holy Spirit." He indwells every Christian.

Romans 8:9 says "if anyone does not have the Spirit, he does not belong to God."

Turn, please, to John chapter 14 John 14. In the teaching of of Jesus He said something about the indwell of the holy Spirit and whether or not it is a premenant ministry.

In John 14 verse 16 we read ..Jesus is speaking and he says.."And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper." Stop right there....

There are two words in Greek for "another." Now, we have the same usage in English. We just have to say more words to get to the point.

We speak of someone who is another of the same kind. And we speak of someone who is another of a different kind. And we use the Greek words said into English.

"Heterogenis" is someone of a different kind

"Homogenesis" is someone of the same kind.

And I love to point this out because when the Lord spoke about the Holy Spirit he discribed him as a helper, a comforter, an advocate, a defense attorney..much like Jesus is. Jesus is called an advocate in I John 2:2

The Holy Spirit is called an advocate here in John 14:16 translated :helper". And in Roman society it was used of a defense attorney. Defending our cause.

We have an advocate at the right hand of God who constantly interseeds for us. Jesus prays for us. He is our defense attorney. That is a beautiful discription.

When he refers to the Holy Spirit and He uses the word "another". It is "another" of the same kind. And I like that.

When Jesus was with his disciples he provided comfort and encouragement and defense for them. The Holy Spirit is the same kind of comfortor as our Lord Jesus. He said, "I will give you another Helper that He may be with you..HOW LONG?...WHAT DOES IT SAY?..FOREVER.

Now, look at the next verse.."that is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him ~~or~~ know Him. But you know him because He abides with ~~you~~ ^{you}, and will be in you."

Now, please remember something. At the time that Jesus is sharing all of this the Holy Spirit ~~was~~ not indwelling the disciples. You see, that will come after the resurrection. Then the Holy Spirit ~~will~~ abide and be in you. ~~And~~ ^{Now} there is no way that you can escape from the Presence of the Holy Spirit. He has always been in the world. He abides alongside of you. That has always been true. But that does not mean that He is in you.

Notice what Jesus said.. "He abides with you, and..will..be..in..you." "Will be" is future tense. You see, the day that the Holy Spirit came..the day ~~of~~ ^{of} Pentecost, from that day on every believer is indwelt, permanently, by the Holy Spirit. He will be with you forever. He will never leave you. ~~Praise~~ ^{Praise} the Lord.

Now, most believers ..believe that. I say most because a few do not. But most do. But, this next matter of the baptism..there is a lot of ~~disagree~~ disagreement. Turn to I Corinthians chapter 12. I Cor. chapter 12. Our statement of faith says that all christians have been baptized by the Holy Spirit. We are aware that many fine Christians disagree with us. And if you are here with a different view, well priase God I love you with all my heart. But I must stand on what I ~~believe~~ believe the Bible teaches. We believe that the Bible teaches that all christians are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Now, there are many problems here. One is semantic..semantic. Some people speak of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit ..and when I listen to them talk..they are really talking ^{Falling} ~~Falling~~ about the ~~Falling~~ of the Holy Spirit.

Some ~~pe~~ ~~ple~~ ~~s~~ ~~pe~~ ~~ak~~ about the Baptism of the ~~H~~ Holy Spirit only in terms of its initial evidence at the day of Pentecost. And thus they do not study it any further.

Some people say that there is a baptism in the Holy Spirit. And there is a baptism with the Holy Spirit. This gets them out of a problem. What they basical mean is that all christians have been baptized in the Holy Spirit in terms of His indwelling you. But they say that you need the Holy Spirit's power on your life..which I would agree..And ~~so~~ ^{so} they speak ^{about} ~~of~~ the baptism with the Holy Spirit. *Meaning His Power*

Now, friends, there is just one problem with all of this discussion. There are 7 places where it says that we are baptized in..with..or by the Holy Spirit. And in all 7 places it is the same exact Greek preposition. There is no difference. So, all of this bit about "in" and "with" or "by" and all of that..I am sorry, but grammatical it doesn't hold any water. In all 7 places it is exactly the same thing.

Now, who baptizes us in the Holy Spirit? John the Baptist said very clearly in Matthew 3:11 that Jesus does. Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit.

Now, in the days before Pentecost arrived, according to the Act 1, it was very clear that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit had not occurred yet. Jesus said to his disciples.."John baptized you in water. But, you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

So, he had not come in His baptizing work at that point. But, from the day of Pentecost on He had.

Now, there is a very clear verse on what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit means. It is the only one out of the seven that tells you what it does. Are you there? I Corinthians 12:13...It says.."For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Now, we have already seen that the Corinthian church was a carnal church. And he says.."We were all baptized."

And there are many dear Christians who act as though you have to be a real spiritual christian in order to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. That is not true. Every Christian has been indwelt and Baptized by the Holy Spirit. That is how God forms the Body of Christ.

But, when you are talking to somebody and disagreeing over this just back up a little bit and look at the symantical problem. Maybe they mean something else then what the Bible says about the Baptism of the holy Spirit. Maybe, they are talking about the need of power in our lives. And I have to say to all of you who believe that you are indwelt and you are baptized, that

one of the great fallacies is thinking that that guarantees that we will have the power of the Holy Spirit manifested in our life. That is simply not so. As a matter of fact, there is a ministry ~~of~~ of the Holy Spirit that has been given to us that is so essential and vital to know his power operating in our lives. But, it is not the baptism. It is not His indwelling.

That is true of every Christian. No matter if they are carnal or spiritual.

(4) Now, a fourth ministry of the Holy Spirit is often referred to as the sealing of the Holy Spirit. And this deals with our security. Turn to the book of Ephesians chapter 1. Ephesians chapter 1.

Now, I believe that we ought to understand that our security lies in the ministry ~~of~~ of the Holy Spirit. Not in our performance. Please listen carefully.

The reason why a lot of people are shaky in their faith is because they are not living for the Lord. You know that. And I know it.

Now, they might be ignorant of some truth in the bible, And that needs to be cleared up. But, the normal reason why people are doubting their salvation is because there is something wrong in their life.

Don't base your security on your performance.. WHY?..Because your performance might be up and down. And you might be evaluating it at a time when you are not living for the Lord. So, be very careful.

But, also, there is a warning there. If you evaluate it on your performance it maybe that you are not really saved. Especial if you continue to live in sin with no pains of repentance. And no desire to serve God. You maybe deceiving yourself in thinking that you are a christian when in reality you are not. And the evidence is there. So, we need to be careful here.

My security as a christian lies in what God does. Not what I do. It lies in the work of the Holy Spirit of God. look at Ephesians 1:13...It says.. "In Him(that is Christ) you, also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in him with the holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance."

I don't have to do anything to prove that it is so. It is so. And please notice in Vs 13 that the Holy Spirit comes when I believe. When I believe in Christ I am sealed with the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is God's pledge. It is his guarantee.

I like to study Greek words because their meaning helps me understand God's blessings. Do you know what the word "pledge" or "guarantee" means in Greek? In Greek it is the word for "engagement ring." Isn't that neat? The Holy Spirit is an engagement ring. It is a proof that the wedding is coming. The bridegroom will come. Isn't that wonderful?

So, the Holy Spirit is a guarantee, He is a pledge that it is really going to happen. The Holy Spirit seals us.

(5) Then number five, we know that the Holy Spirit imparts Spiritual gifts. Turn to I Corinthians chapter 12. I do not want to give you a whole study on Spiritual gifts, but just these few things.

I believe that one of the problems in discovering our gifts is that we forget that the Holy Spirit's ministry is in the area of gifts. He gives the gifts. You should never doubt or question that you have a gift. The Holy Spirit is fully able to manifest the gift that Jesus has given to you. And you need to believe and trust Him for what he says is true. God, the Holy Spirit, has given us a gift or gifts to be used. And He gives it according to His own sovereign will.

I Corinthians 12 verse 7.. "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Vs 11.. "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as he wills."

The Holy spirit gives the gifts for the whole ^{Churches'} ~~church's~~ benefit. He gives so that every one in the church will profit. It is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit's work in our midst when people use their gifts in ministering to one another. That is exciting.

(6) Then let's come to a sixth matter. And here we come to some important issues in christian life and practice. The bible teaches that the Holy Spirit fills the believer. Turn to Ephesians, please, chapter 5

Now, our statement of faith says, "one baptism and many fillings." Now, we could be a little ~~but~~ misled by that statement if we think that the "filling" time of the Holy Spirit is only when we have a special act of service for the Lord. Many teach that. And it is not true. It is the normal christian experience to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is not just for a few special people, It is normal. It is natural for everyone of us as christians to be filled and controled by the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians 5 we read in Vs 15.. "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Do you want to know what God's will is for your life? Well, here it is.. Vs 18.. "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."

Now, that is not a suggestion for a few christians. That is a command. It is in the present tense. "Constantly" being filled." That ought to be the normal Christian experience. It is likened to "drunkenness." Because when a person is drunk he is controlled by an outside force and influence on his life. His reaction time is different when he drives. That is why he shouldn't drive when he is drunk. He doesn't think as clearly. The force of that wine upon his whole system. It is controlling his reactions and abilities to think.

Now, liken that to the Holy Spirit. When a Christian is controled by the Holy Spirit, he is doing things that the natural man doesn't do. The natural man gets ticked off when he is criticised. The Holy Spirit filled man does not. The natural man gets discouraged and depressed when things go wrong. The filling of the Holy Spirit guarantees joy even in the midst of sorrow. There is peace there. There is joy there. There is love there. There is self control. There is gentleness. There is goodness. All these wonderful things..WHY? Because the Holy Spirit is controlling our lives.

I want to ask you a question. I want you to think about it. Even though it is so simple. Even though I know you know what I am going to ask you. I want you to get prepared, spiritually, right where you are. I still want to ask you. ARE YOU FILLED WITH THE HOLY Spirit/ ARE YOU REALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD?

Bill Bright, with Campus Crusade for Christ, put out a little track called HAVE YOU MADE THE WONDERFUL DISCOVERY OF THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE?

And in this particular track, it talks about carnal christians who can not experience the spirit filled life. He says that the carnal man trust in his own efforts to live the Christian life. he is either uninformed about, or, has forgotten God's love ..forgiveness, and power. He has an up and down spiritual experience. He cannot understand himself. And he wants to do what is right. But he cannot. He fails to draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live the christian life. he than discribes the following characteristics of someone who is not filled with the Holy Spirit.

You have ignorance of your spiritual heritage.....unbelief..disobedience.. loss of love for God and others...a poor prayer life...no desire for Bible study..a legalist attitude...impure thoughts...jealousy..guilt...worry... discouragement...critical spirit...frustration...and aimlessness in life.

I read all of that and I said WOW!! It is easy to read that and say... I am not filled with the holy Spirit.

So, I want to ask you..ARE YOU FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT? It seems to me that there are two conditions. And let me explain why.

The Bible is very clear that when you harbor or entertain sin in your life, the Lord will not hear you or respond to you. The Bible teaches very clearly that sin, especially sins of the tongue,grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

The Bible speaks of Christians who queach the Holy Spirit. They throw water on Him by the way they act and the way they live.

The Bible says that he who confesses and forsakes his sin will find compassion. But he who tries to cover it will not prosper.

It seems to me that there is one thing that hinders and grieves the work of God's wonderful Holy Spirit in our lives. And that is sin. And until we confess that sin...and I would add the word "repentence" also..until we get the matter straightened out we are kidding ourselves by trying to act as if we were filled with the Holy Spirit. We are living powerless, fruitless lives. Because we have never dealt with the sin issue..either in the past or in the present.

Dear friends, if you are harboring some sin in your life you are not filled with the holy Spirit no matter what you may say. If there is some problem between you and another brother or sister in Christ, you are not filled with the HOLY Spirit no matter what you say.

What is our attitude? What is our spirit? What comes out of our mouths? Why are we hiding so much of the time? Are we really filled with the Holy Spirit?

It seems to me that the issue of "obedience" is very powerful. Turn over to Galatians chapter 5. And let me show you.

In addition to confession of sin and repentence of what I have done wrong, I then must obey the Holy Spirit in my life. And that is how the Bible describes the filling of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5. It is a walk. A step by step processes of walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leadings. And those leadings come from the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is the authority of this book. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit when we are disobeying the Word of God?

Galatians 5:16 says.."But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

Now, our old sin nature is constantly desiring to do wrong. There is no doubt about that. When we are pressured or tested by someone who speaks against us, or what ever, when ever we are pressured to do something wrong, HAY! we all have the desire of the flesh. But, God says that you will never carry it out, if you are walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Very important.

Confession...deal with the sin. Get it right with God.

But, also the matter of practical obedience to the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5 goes on to tell us of the wonderful consequence which we will not deal with in this message. But all those things should be evident in our lives , if we are truly filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

(7) And this brings us to the 7th ministry of the Holy Spirit which is so much related to the one we just mentioned. And that is the fruit of ;the H.S.

Galatians 5 ...look at Vs 22..After naming the works of the flesh, which according to Vs 19 are evident, You say.."I don't know if I am filled?" "Tell me how I can know"? I want to show you a negative way to tell.

Negatively, if any one of the sins mentioned from verse 19 to 21 are current habits of your life, then you are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

You see, Paul said that the works of the flesh are evident. On the other side the work of the Spirit is not. It is invisible. You can not see it.

But, when you see the carnality of a persons life, the desire which you cannot see now come out in actions that you can now see,then you know whether or not you are filled with the spirit. So, if you are doing these things, they are works of the flesh..constrasted with fuirt of the Spirit....WORKS.. PLURAL...FRUIT..SINGULAR.

If you are doing any of the works of the flesh as a habit of life, y ou are not filled with the Holy Spirit. They are evident. Read over the list. Some of them you can wipe easily off the list. Others are a little more dificult.

Now, look at Vs 22..But..in constrast to the works of the flesh.."But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh."

Now, that is true of every christian, already. because of your faith in Christ. Your sin nature was nailed to the cross. So, Vs 25 says.."If we live by the sipirit"..and that is a special Greek construction meaning "if" and it is true.

Since it is true that we all do live in the Spirit because we ^{are} Christians, then let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us live in obedience to God. "Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another."

I look at all of this and I said.. "Hay! wait a minute. What is He saying that the fruit of the Spirit is... He is saying that all of this is characteristics of Christ in my life. That is why it is. It is seeing Jesus and how He would react. What he would do. What he would say in all kinds of situations, when the Spirit of God is truly controlling our lives.

I looked at this whole matter and I said, "Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing, tonight, a wonderful thing, if many of us, right now, would claim and accept and confess, obey and receive the filling of the Holy Spirit of God. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing?"

Oh, this is not for the super Christian. We are talking about basic Christianity. God wants you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It could change your Christian life.

Stop trying to run it on your own gas. Stop trying to do it in the energy of the flesh. And back up and say.. "Man! I need the power of the Holy Spirit of God in my life. He is God, almighty. Who am I to doubt this and question His presence and his power. Why do I keep trying to do this in my own way.

The power of the Holy Spirit, dear friends, is available to every Christian here tonight.

You say, "What must I do?"

If there is any known sin that you are harboring in your life, you will not get to first base until you confess and repent of that sin, right now.

After this meeting you may have to call someone and get things strengthened out. You may have to deal with something in a very specific way. If you have lied, you will have to go and tell the truth. You are going to have to get this cleaned. You are going to have to clean up the cob webs. You are going to have to deal with the sins that are grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit

But, tonight, if you mean business with God, right where you are confess and acknowledge that sin to God. Say, "God, I have sinned against you."

And if you have sinned against others, then deal with it. And walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

And then by faith claim that God's Holy Spirit will control you. I believe we can claim that on the bases of our confession and repentence, we can know that God's Holy Spirit can control and fill and empower our lives.

Our witness will become better. The Bible says that when they were filled with the Holy Spirit they spoke with boldness. Not so much in bringing people to Christ. The is the work of the Holy Spirit. But in our ability to be bold in tough times. Wehen pressure is on us not to say anthing. When the enemy trys to keep us quite. What causes people to be bold and to speak freely of their faith in Christ? God answer: be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We all need to be filled with the Spirit. And every last christian could leave here today filled with the Spirit. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? OH, i believe it. And what a difference we would make in where we live tomorrow.

Let us close with prayer