

The Work of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The work of the Holy Spirit... in the life of the believer...is a very important subject.
- b. You will never be the Christian God would have you to be... you will never be an overcomer... you will never be victorious... you will never be a soul winner... you will never be a prayer warrior.
- c. If you don't understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit of God... in your life.
- d. The Bible teaches that the moment a person repents of their sins and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior... the Holy Spirit of God... the third person of the Trinity... comes to live within them... He comes to dwell in the believer.
- e. In the Old Testament... the Holy Spirit was present in the world... and He was active among the people of God.
- f. But in the Old Testament...the Holy Spirit did not indwell believers as He does today.
- g. Since the Day of Pentecost... when a person is saved... the Holy Spirit of God comes to live within them.
- h. Today we are going to try to understand in a better way... what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer means.

II. THE BLESSING OF THE SPIRIT'S INDWELLING-

- a. First... I want us to see that indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer... is a wonderful blessing.

- b. After a person is saved... the very first blessing... the very first gift... that God gives to that person... is the presence and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in their life.
- c. *Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV) "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."*
- d. When a person is saved... God seals that person... He marks that person ... as belonging to Him.
- e. And the seal of ownership that God uses to mark the believer as belonging to Him... is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in their life.
- f. When we buy something... we will often write our name on it... or we will mark it... or identify in some way as belonging to us.
- g. When you were saved... God wrote His name on you... He set His mark on you... He set His seal on you... and the seal God used to mark you as belonging to Him...is the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.
- h. It is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our life...which identifies us as belonging to God.
- i. *Romans 8:9 (NKJV) "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."*
- j. A person can claim to be a Christian all they want to... but if the Holy Spirit does not live within them... then it is not so.
- k. Not only is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit God's seal on our life ... His presence in our life is the first fruit... the earnest... the down

payment... the guarantee... of all the blessings that God promises to believers.

- l. The word translated “guarantee” in Ephesians 1:14... was a word that could have been in ancient times for an engagement ring... if they had such a thing back then.
- m. An engagement ring is a symbol...a promise... from a man to a woman ... that he intends to marry her... and he will be true and faithful only to her.
- n. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer... is God’s promise to us... that He will keep us... that He will protect us.
- o. And the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is God’s guarantee that we will receive all of the blessings... that God has promised to those who trust in Him.
- p. What a blessing... the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is in the life of the believer!

Blessing

III. THE NECESSITY OF THE SPIRIT’S INDWELLING-

- a. God gives believers the indwelling of the Holy Spirit... because in this world... we need the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life.
- b. As saved as we are...believers cannot live the Christian life out of our own ability and strength.
- c. For a believer to live the life that God wants us to live in this world... we must rely on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- d. God gives believers the indwelling of the Holy Spirit... because His presence and power is necessary... for us to be able to live the life God wants us to live.
- e. What does the Holy Spirit... do in the life of the believer?

- f. #1, He secures our salvation... your salvation is not secured by anything you do... the salvation God that gave you when you trusted in Christ... is secured only by the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.
- g. In John 10:28-29... Jesus said this concerning those who trust in Him ... *“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.”*
- h. A true believer cannot lose their salvation... a true believer can never be lost... because a true believer in Christ... is secure in the hand of Jesus... in the hand of the Father... and the true believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- i. The eternal security of the believer is a wonderful truth... but many people do not understand this truth... and many people distort this great truth.
- j. Many people think the eternal security of the believer... gives a person the opportunity to take advantage of God... and to exploit God's grace.
- k. Let me make this clear... for a person's salvation to be eternal security ... they must first be saved.
- l. If a person believes the eternal security of the believer... gives them the freedom, the cover, the opportunity to live any way they want to live.
- m. If a person believes that the eternal security of the believer is an excuse they can use to sin ... then they have never been saved... it does not matter what they say.

- n. For the true believer... the fact that our salvation is made secure by God ... does not motivate us to live in sin... the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life will never motivate them to sin.
- o. Eternal security and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer... will always motivate us to holiness ... the Holy Spirit will always motivate a person to live a holy, clean and committed life for Christ.
- p. The Holy Spirit does not come and go in the life of the believer... depending on whether we are saved or not.
- q. Jesus said in John 14:16 that when the Holy Spirit comes to live within the believer... He comes to abide with us forever.
- r. When the Lord saves us... He does not give us temporary life ... He does not give us "as long as we do not sin too much life"... He gives us eternal life.
- s. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer that identifies us as a follower of Jesus Christ... and it is His presence in our life that secures our salvation.
- t. #2, Not only does the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer secure our salvation... His presence also motivates and empowers us to live the Christian life.
- u. It is the indwelling and the presence of the Holy Spirit... who motivates and empowers believers... to live the Christian life.
- v. A life marked by worship, service, love for other Christians... a life marked by good works done Christ's name... and a life marked by a desire to share the gospel of Jesus with others.
- w. The Bible calls on Christians walk in the Spirit... to be filled with the Spirit... to daily live under the control of the Holy Spirit... and the more that is true in our life... the more effective we will be in living

the Christian life... and the more effective we will be in our service for Christ.

- x. #3, The Holy Spirit helps the believer... He gives us comfort... assurance ... guidance and direction in life... He helps us to understand God's Word and God's will for our life... He confronts and corrects us when we sin... the Holy Spirit connects us with God... because He Himself is God.
- y. In John 14:16... Jesus called the Holy Spirit a "Helper"... the word translated helper is the word para-clay-toss... it literally means "one who comes alongside."
- z. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in our life... everyday He comes alongside us ... to help us... to give us strength... wisdom... guidance ... direction ... and assurance.
- aa. In John 14:16... Jesus called the Holy Spirit "another" Helper ... literally another Helper of the same kind.
- bb. The Holy Spirit is a Helper like Jesus... Jesus and the Holy Spirit share the same divine nature... the same divine attributes.
- cc. The Father... the Lord Jesus... and the Holy Spirit... are equally God ...the Holy Spirit is literally the presence of God in our lives.

Blessing... Necessity

IV. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SPIRIT'S INDWELLING-

- a. While the Holy Spirit comes to live within the believer when we are saved... the Holy Spirit does not turn us into robots.
- b. While the Holy Spirit lives within us... and while the Holy Spirit connects us with God... and motivates to Christian living... the Holy Spirit does not gate crash our will.
- c. For a believer to experience the fullness of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit... we must on a daily basis... yield control of our life to the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

- d. The Bible never commands believers to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit ... that happens the moment we are saved.
- e. But the Bible does command believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit ...to daily yield control of our life to the Holy Spirit who lives within us.
- f. *Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV) “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”... Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”... Galatians 5:25 (KJV) “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*
- g. How is a believer filled with the Spirit?... How does a believer walk in the Spirit?
- h. And by the way... the Spirit-filled life is not just for preachers... deacons... or super-spiritual Christians... it is God’s will for every believer to be a Spirit-filled... Spirit-controlled Christian.
- i. The goal of the Holy Spirit is to glorify and lift up Christ in this world ... and that is the purpose and the goal of the Christian life.
- j. When a believer walks in the Spirit... the Holy Spirit will use that believer to honor and glorify Christ.
- k. #1, To walk in the Spirit... to be filled with the Spirit... we must acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life.
- l. Have you ever gone somewhere and you were totally ignored by those around you?... treated as if you did not exist?
- m. When was the last time you acknowledged... the presence of the Holy Spirit of God in your life?
- n. How offensive it is for believers... never to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life?

- o. #2, To walk in the Spirit... to be filled with the Spirit... we must confess our dependence on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit ... to live the Christian life... and to serve God... as God would have us to.
- p. #3, To walk in the Spirit... to be filled with the Spirit... we must daily surrender control of our life... to the Holy Spirit who lives within us.
- q. Daily surrendering control of your life to the Holy Spirit... won't make you a nut.
- r. Living in the Spirit...and walking in the Spirit... will make you more like Jesus... it will motivate and empower you to live the Christian life ... and living in the Spirit will give you a daily dose of the joy of the Lord!

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. Thank God for His blessed gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit... the first fruit of our Heavenly blessings.
- b. The Holy Spirit does not indwell the unbeliever... the Holy Spirit convicts the unsaved of their sin... their lostness... their separation from God... and the judgment to come.
- c. The Holy Spirit draws the unsaved to Christ... is He drawing you?