

Online Grace Bible School

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**Online Grace Bible School
Phase 5
The Promise of the Spirit**

1) Intimacy With God Through The Spirit

'Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith' (Gal.3:13-14). It was foretold that the Holy Spirit would be given to God's people to make the new covenant a reality, Ezek.36:27; Joel 2:28-29; John 7:37-39.

In His Farewell Discourse (John 13-17) Jesus spoke of the coming of the Spirit, Jn.14:16-18. This was fulfilled at Pentecost. *'At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you'* (John 14:20). When the Spirit comes ('in that day') we will know our union with Christ, John 14:21.

- ✓ The goal of salvation is intimacy with the Father. We have received the Holy Spirit for this purpose,
- ✓ See Acts.10:44. 'Fell upon' (*epipto*) = to give a warm embrace; a welcoming into the family of God, (see Lk.15:20).
- ✓ The Holy Spirit throws His arms around us, Rom.5:5.
- ✓ We are 'in the Spirit'. The Holy Spirit joins us to Christ and makes His life a reality, Rom.8:9; Gal.4:4.

- ✓ Satan will let us do anything except have intimacy with the Father. His opposition to this is not obvious but subtle. He is happy for us to have gifts but not the Giver. E.g. Success, prosperity, healing, etc., 1 Pet.3:18.
- ✓ Intimacy with God through the Spirit is the Biblical motivation for holiness, 1 Cor.6:17,19-20).
- ✓ 'Temple' is *hieron*, but holy of holies is *naos*, the dwelling-place of God's glory. Wherever we go, whatever our circumstances we bear the presence and the glory of God.

- ✓ Intimacy with God is a promise of the new covenant. It is promised to the least, Heb.8:11.
- ✓ The Greek for 'know' here is *ginosko*. It means to know absolutely, so that we can be sure, confident and bold to speak. It also indicates that who or what is known is of great value and importance to the one learning, Jn.17:3; Jn.10:14.

- ✓ After the Cross 'following' was replaced by 'abiding'. To abide means that one person remains in union with another. To be one in mind, spirit, heart and will. As the Father and the Son, Jn.14:10-11; 14:20-21.
- ✓ The Holy Spirit has joined our spirit with Christ. We are one with Him. We abide in Him who abides in the Father. We have His mind, His heart and His will.
- ✓ We are joined to Him as a branch is joined to the vine. We must never think of ourselves except being joined to Jesus; and we must not think of Him except being joined to us, Gal.2:20.
- ✓ Abiding is choosing to be available to Him who is always with us. The result is fruit bearing, Jn.15:4-7.

This is important because of:

- ✓ The pressure within and without to live independently of Christ. This is living by means of the flesh. God has many self-appointed hired servants. To these He will say, 'I never knew you'. The purpose of redemption is that we be His sons.

- ✓ The pressure of others. Religion would yoke us to systems which produce works but cannot produce fruit. We are invited to be yoked with Christ by the Holy Spirit. Jesus called those who were weary because yoked to the Law, to Himself Matt.11:28-30. He didn't offer law but life. *'For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me'* (Rom.15:18).

2) The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus

- ✓ The Holy Spirit has been called the neglected Person of the Trinity. Some equate Him only with power.
- ✓ He is a real Person; a divine Person who enables us to have an intimate relationship with God.

Yet, He may be a stranger to us. Are you aware of Him? How do we nurture fellowship with Him?

- ✓ We learn to recognize His voice and become responsive to it. Not anger, condemnation, fear of God, etc.
- ✓ Know the things He will focus on: the greatness of Jesus, the power of the Cross, our righteousness, etc.
- ✓ We share our feelings with Him and seek Him when we make decisions in our lives.
- ✓ We can only do this if we are confident of His love, Rom.5:5; Rom.15:30.
- ✓ God is love, i.e. *agape*, unmerited love; a love for the unlovely. It's not a response to anything in us. It arises purely from the heart of God. He is the initiator of this love.
- ✓ *Eros* is this world's love; a love for the lovely and beautiful. *Eros* is awakened and called forth by the attractiveness of the one loved. It fades when the beauty or loveliness fades.
- ✓ *Eros* is not found in the New Testament. Yet the self-righteous believe that God has *eros* love, i.e. He loves us only when we are lovely. God wants to change our default setting from *eros* to *agape*.

- ✓ Holiness is a response to love not law, 1 John 3:1-3.
- ✓ It is made possible by the Spirit, not by law. Those who walk in the Spirit have finished with their relationship to the law, Gal.5:18. Under the NC we have obligation to the Spirit, not to the law, Gal.5:16.

- ✓ Rom.8:2-4. The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is now God's way of living. We now walk by the Spirit, are led by Him and energized by Him.
- ✓ He is the guarantor of our holiness. He will make it happen. He will reproduce the life of Jesus in us.
- ✓ How, without the law, will I know what sin is? The Spirit makes us aware of it, Gal.5:19-21; Eph.4:30-31.
- ✓ The fruit of the Spirit is the life of Christ produced in us by the indwelling Spirit, Gal.5:22-23.
- ✓ John 15:1. As we abide in Him we bear much fruit. This is to realize & live from our new creation identity

- ✓ The Father is the Vinedresser. It is His role to keep us abiding in the Vine.
- ✓ John 15:2. 'Takes away' here means to lift up, 1 Cor.1:30; 2 Cor.1:21.
- ✓ The more we are aware of our weakness the greater potential there is for His strength to be manifest.
- ✓ Prayer is not asking God to strengthen our strength. It's feeling at home in our weakness knowing the power of Christ rests on us. Weakness is the key to strength, 2 Cor.12:9. Need opens us to God's grace.
- ✓ Paul said I have learned in all things to be content, Phil.4:11-13. Lit. 'I have been initiated into a secret'.
- ✓ He had been initiated into the secret of true contentment, i.e. to be sufficient from Christ within. Phil.4:13, literally 'in-strengthened by the Spirit' Col.1:11.

- ✓ Don't see temptation and trial as a negative but that which leads us to Christ's power, James 1:2.
- ✓ We will always fail if we see it as something to overcome. It is something which leads us to the grace of God. So see it as an opportunity to have fellowship with the Spirit and experience His life and power.
- ✓ The Spirit is the sap who brings the life of Jesus into the branches.
- ✓ God's way of dealing with the flesh is not to go to work on it, but to walk in the Spirit. If we give our attention to how we are going to overcome sin, we will spend all our time focusing on the sin we want to be free of. Whatever we give attention to, we give strength to.

- ✓ God will not give me patience, humility, love, etc. He has given me Jesus. Only one package. When we received Christ we received love, righteousness, holiness, etc.
- ✓ By yielding to the Spirit, we put to death the deeds of our body. Don't say 'no' to temptation. Say 'yes' to the Spirit. Close the door to temptation by opening it to Spirit.

Summary: Having fellowship with the Holy Spirit means to focus on what He focuses on – God's love (agape) and Jesus. Respond to His love, not law. See your weaknesses as opportunities for grace.