

LIVING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Just a reminder of R. A. Torrey's quote.

"If we think of the Holy Spirit ... as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, 'How can I get more of the Holy Spirit,' but if we think of Him in the Biblical way as a Divine Person, our thought will rather be, 'How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?'" (*The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*, p. 8)

When we think performance of the Holy Spirit His personhood becomes essential. Performance is often an attribute of something mechanical.

The performance of a Formula One race car.

The performance of a computer, how fast it computes; how much memory?

Paul describes the performance of the Holy Spirit in our scripture.

But it is not a mechanical performance it is a living performance.

Paul is praying and the performance of the Holy Spirit bubbles up.

In prayer Paul sees the working of the trinity.

Paul's prayer is a prayer of depth, and wonder, and beauty.

He has a vision of God in all His splendor.

He cannot help but bow His knees before the Father.

He is practically driven to adoration and humility.

He sees the divine presence of the Father everywhere he looks.

Every family in heaven and on earth owes its name to the Father.

Your family owes its name to the Father.

What is your family name; your last name?

Speak it out!

God the Father is the author of that name!

God the Father is the foundation of your family!

He is involved, and when we acknowledge that, we worship.

In prayer Paul see the Father and the Spirit sharing glory.

We will come back to that 16th verse in a moment.

Then Paul's prayer includes Jesus with the Father and the Spirit in vs 17.

Paul has just described the Triune God.

If you rearrange the letters of the word Triune God's work is described.

Triune rearranged can spell the word "Uniter".

That is what God does, God is the Uniter.

He unites heaven and earth and the Spirit accomplishes that work.

So let's go back to the performance of the Spirit in verse 16.

The greatest work the Spirit does is in the inner man.

On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was poured out on all flesh.

Every family named by the Father is touched by the Spirit's presence.

The Holy Spirit is working in the midst of every family.

Your life and your family are touched by the Holy Spirit.

But the outer presence of the Holy Spirit does not give strength.

The Holy Spirit can lead, teach, guide.

He works to bring us to Jesus.

He reveals that Jesus is worthy of our trust and faith.

But that does not make the might of the Father active in our lives.

Perhaps that is why many think of the Holy Spirit as an influence.

It was revealed to Paul that the Spirit in the inner person brings strength.

And being strengthened with might by the Spirit within has great impact.

1. One impact is the presence of Christ dwelling in our hearts (vs. 17).
 The word "dwell" implies the deepest parts of our lives.
 The Spirit within you enables Christ to dwell down deep in your life.
 He enables Jesus to enter the deepest depths of our being.
 On the Cross Jesus showed that He is for us.
 He was the sacrifice of sin for us.
 He became the substitute for us.
 The Cross is Christ for us.
 But by the Holy Spirit in us the risen Christ is in us.
 By the Spirit we live the Christ-like life.
 For about the last 20 years the letters WWJD have been popular with Christians.
 We are encouraged to think WWJD: What Would Jesus Do?
 Certainly as Christians we know we ought to live like Christ.
 We should walk as Jesus walked, love as Jesus loved, serve as Jesus served.
 But any attempt to live like Jesus in our strength will make life dismal.
 Trying to imitate Jesus in our strength will result in utter disappointment.
 That is why the world is often disappointed with the church.
 Too many who attend church try to be Christ-like without Christ within.
 It is futile to try to imitate Christ by the power of our own will.
 If we think we can, it shows we don't know Jesus.
 God doesn't ask us to do the impossible.
 He offers to form Christ in us by the power of His Holy Spirit.
 When we embrace the infilling of the Spirit Christ is formed in us.
 Jesus just naturally lives out His life through us.
 We shall be like Christ without struggle.
 Christ will naturally flow through us.
 He flows through us effortlessly by His Spirit.
 In our strength we are feeble and experience failure.
 With the Holy Spirit and Christ in us we are holy.
 With the Holy Spirit and Christ in me I impact the world.
 He lives out His life of victory and beauty in me.

2. And as Paul prays he sees more about the Holy Spirit's performance.
 The Spirit and Christ send roots of love that spread through life.
 Their presence begins to flood our lives with love.
 The Father's love dominates everything.
 My attitudes, values, and actions flow out of God's love.
 I am totally yielded to the will of the Father.
 Everything I am is immersed in the will of the Father.
 The Father's will that flows from me is love steeped in sacrifice.
 It isn't a wishy-washy love, the kind that inspires jingles.
 We don't go through life singing, "Oo I love turtles."
 Our entire character is rooted and grounded in God's love.
 The strengthening of the Spirit filling the inner life provides roots
 Those roots are nourished in the soil of perfect, holy, love.
 This love is the sum of holiness.
 This love is the totality of the law (Romans 13:8-10).
 This love is reflective of our relationship with God.
 And it defines our relationships with one another.
 The Holy Spirit performs this in us.
 It is the work of the Holy Spirit to root us and ground our lives in love.
 To love without the indwelling Spirit is mechanical.
 There might be lots of noise and activity, but don't get too close.
 If you get too close to a machine it will hurt you.

3. Rooted and grounded in love gives power.
 The power it provides is even greater understanding of God's love in Christ.

And His love in Christ is beyond our comprehension.
His love surpasses knowledge.
I can't possibly describe God's love for you.
Its breadth and length and height and depth defies description
The best I can do is let it flow through me.

4. And the only way the love of Christ flows through me is by the Spirit within.
By the Spirit I am filled with all the fullness of God.
Paul recognizes something totally amazing as He prays.
He sees a miracle taking place that is huge.
If you dipped a cup into the Pacific Ocean what would fill your cup?
It would be full of the Pacific Ocean.
But it would not contain all the water of the Pacific Ocean.
That is impossible.
But, that is exactly what Paul prays for us.
His prayer envisions all the fullness of God dwelling in me.
He does not envision a life just full of God.
He sees a life that is filled with all of God.
By the Spirit within I do not get just enough of God to fill me.
By the Spirit within, all the fullness of God dwells in me.

Jesus had a conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well.
She understood God's work in her life like the cup dipped in the ocean.
The Samaritans had their fill of God.
The Jews had their fill of God.
The Samaritans filled up with God at Mount Gerizim.
The Jews filled up with God in Jerusalem.
Jesus said when we think that way it shows we don't know God.
God is spirit so to truly worship requires spirit and truth.
Earlier in the conversation, in v. 10 Jesus spoke of living water.
Jesus did not say I will give you some of the living water.
If it was just a portion of the living water we would thirst again, (Jn 4:14)
Later in 7:37b-39 Jesus identified what that welling-up water was.
The Spirit fills with all the fullness of God.
This is not the work of a moment, or a day, or any measurement of time.
It is a day by day fullness, a continuous flow of all the fullness of God.
We do not coast on a stock-pile of all the fullness of God.
Today is not a stocking up of God to get you through the week.
It is like the manna God gave from heaven to Israel in the wilderness.
The Holy Spirit's performance is fresh every day.
That does not mean the work He did in us yesterday was incomplete.
The roots and the grounding of yesterday enable power to comprehend.
We see Christ's love anew as we experience God's fullness today.
He provides new opportunities to love today.
His love flows fresh through us again today as His Spirit dwells within.

Closing Song How Deep the Father's Love for Us