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From
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TENDER TALKS

A NEW BEGINNING



Dear Friends,

Summer is almost here and a new subject must appear. My goal is always to bring you something from God's Word that has been an inspiration in my life. As I have always been interested in world affairs along with Bible prophecy and what is going on in our churches today, I came to the conclusion that I would write a simple yet clear presentation on the work of the Holy Spirit so we would know how to live a Spiritual victorious life in spite of all the things going on around us. It might take us a few months to do this so let's begin.

Lovingly, Joyce

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

When Jesus was about to return to Heaven He spoke of "another Comforter" who should come to dwell in those who belong to Him (John 14:16). This Comforter is the Holy Spirit who is the Representative of Christ, to do His work, and act on His behalf. The Holy Spirit has not come to bear witness to Himself. He has come as the divine Servant of the Godhead. His ministry is to attract everyone to Christ.

Jesus, the second Person of the Divine Trinity made God visible to men when He was on the earth. The third Person of the triune Godhead is the Holy Spirit. No body has been prepared for Him. He dwells in the bodies of believers; these bodies of ours are the temples wherein He manifests Himself (1 Cor. 6:19).

In John 16:13,14 seven things are stated about the Holy Spirit that proves beyond all doubt that He is a real Person. I am going to print out these verses and underline words that prove He is a Person. Notice also in these verses the pronoun "He" is used eight times. We do not speak of an influence or of a power as "He." But when we refer to the Holy Spirit we say "He."

13 "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak and He will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you."

The Holy Spirit worked in the world in times that preceded the coming of Christ. The Holy Spirit was hovering over the face of the waters in Genesis 1:2. In the former days the occasions of His coming were to be *on* them enduing them with power for a particular purpose like Gideon, Samson, David and many more. In John 14:17 Christ said the Holy Spirit now would "be *in you*." In the following verses Paul writes that the Holy Spirit dwells *in* you—I Cor. 6:19, Rom. 8:11 and 2 Tim. 1:14. The importance of the distinction between *on* and *in* is greater than one would at first suppose.

Today our progress is dependent on the power within, and not on our progress only. The joy, our service, our testimony, all depend upon the indwelling and abiding Comforter. Without the Holy Spirit in us there can be no true knowledge of God, nor understanding of God and His purpose for us. Jesus said in John 16:7, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." From that moment on when Jesus left this earth our asking for the Holy Spirit would not be needed because He has been given to us.

A true believer in Christ does not have to pray continuously for the forgiveness of all his sins after accepting Jesus as His Savior because in Eph. 4:32, we read that, "God in Christ also has forgiven you," We do not have to pray for the gift of everlasting life either "for he that believes on the Son has everlasting life." (John 3:16) These passages show that the gift of the Holy Spirit, instead of being a matter for prayer, is for the Christian who has the Spirit within them **now** and should be a matter of **thanking God** our Father for this tremendous gift.

OVER

There are two things that we must be careful of and that is that we do not confuse being born of the Spirit and the sealing of the Spirit. We are born of the Spirit in order that we may be the children of God. We are sealed with the Spirit because we are His children and belong to Christ. We are bought with the precious blood of Christ and because of this, God seals us by giving us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. We are sealed simply and solely because we have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.

It is interesting that the sealing in Scripture is that of security. A thing was sealed to make it secure for its owner. God has sealed us, leaving us here for a while, until Christ comes back to take us away. Thank God there is no power in the world that can break His seal or imperil those whom He has placed in safety. He has made us as secure as He can! Our security is absolute. Praise the Lord!

If one is going to study in depth the Holy Spirit, it would take many hours of reading, praying and searching out all areas of the Holy Spirit. To live a victorious Christian life God does not expect us to read anything other than the Bible and then ask for wisdom to understand and be guided by those who God places in our lives to help us. So now that we know that after accepting Jesus as our Savior and repenting of our sins the Holy Spirit comes to live in us and seals us giving us the assurance that we belong to God securely now. The Bible gives us clear information on every aspect of the Holy Spirit so I will try to make it simple and understandable so that we can move on in a Holy Spirit-filled life pleasing to the Lord. I will give a simple overview each month of how we can live victoriously in our Christian life because we have the Holy Spirit within us and helping us.

APPLICATION

Let's begin with this verse, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence by which he has granted us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." (2 Peter 1:3-4) The divine power is the Holy Spirit who gives me all things now to live a godly life. This is through the knowledge that the Holy Spirit gives to me about the precious promises that are mine to claim. I get the feeling that I can partake of the divine nature given to me now and can escape the sinful desires that are in the world. This is a good start to my Christian walk.

A NEW AND WONDERFUL LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Living in the Spirit means living as a child of God. We now have a new divine power in our life. The believer becomes now the temple of God. God the Holy Spirit, as well as God the Father and God the Son, makes the body of the believer His temple on earth. Previously He was with all those who put their trust in God even if not in them. Our new relationship is obviously intended to be more intimate and more effective than that which was true before the present dispensation. According to the Scriptures, the Spirit is the teacher of all truth (John 16:13); The Spirit is intended to guide and lead the child of God (Romans 8:14); We have the presence of the Spirit who seals us and gives assurance of salvation (Romans 8:16).

John Walvoord in his book, The Holy Spirit at Work Today says, "The indwelling divine presence is the provision of God for empowering and enabling the believer to achieve that for which he has been made a new creation. It will have its fulfillment both in time and eternity in which the believer is designed to bring glory to God. The subsequent development of the spiritual life, the achievement of holiness, the use of gifts, and the divine power which is provided for the believer are the extension of the ministries of the Spirit in beginning the spiritual renewal at salvation. The understanding of this and its realization constitute a major aspect of Christian experience and life."

We are now separated from this world because God has taken residence within us. We are restored to God. We were purchased through Christ, whose blood paid for our sins. Now we have access to God. He can accept us because we have on the righteousness of Christ. What happens now?

The Holy Spirit not only transforms us into a new creation, we receive power to do the work at hand. Inside we are a new creation, we are born again, with the Holy Spirit and His power. This is for us today! We can say Hallelujah! **Next month we will learn more about the Holy Spirit's leading in our life.**