

The Science of Prayer

Its ABC's

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Name: _____

Date: _____

LESSON 9:

Why We Love the Holy Spirit

Introduction

Were you ever subconsciously afraid of the Holy Spirit? Did you have some sort of hidden reluctance of which you yourself were not aware, and yet looking backward you now detect that you had made some wrong equations?

From the time we were mere children, we were taught the blessings of the Holy Spirit. We heard some good sermons concerning Him. We listened to some conversations about Him. That is, we think we did.

Looking back, however, we think we sense a hidden lurking reluctance. We think it was because we equated the Holy Spirit with some individuals who seemed to think they were the most spirit-filled. Their faces did not reflect a joy which is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. There were weird, undesirable characteristics about them. They were not wholesome individuals as we knew them. They were often very unkind and uncharitable. They assumed a "holier-than-thou" attitude. They seemed, too often, to carry with them an aura of sanctimony rather than Christian winsomeness, innocent humility, and self-effacement.

Years ago we grew up, and with this maturity God may have helped us to take a mature attitude toward the Holy Spirit. We are not to look to those who profess to possess Him, although this is the most natural thing to do. And it often seems the most practical thing to do. No, we would look to the Word of God to teach us about the Holy Spirit, and to accept Him into our lives. Here are some Bible truths concerning the Holy Spirit and why we deeply love Him now.

1. The Holy Spirit makes it entirely unnecessary to try a "do-it-yourself" program of works.

"This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it." Zechariah 4:6, 7.

2. The Holy Spirit gives the new birth, so we do not have to try to work ourselves into a frenzy to be born again.

"But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12, 13.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:5-7.

3. The Holy Spirit makes it unnecessary for us to lay our own plans and then ask God to approve them. He lays the plans and we accept His plans.

"How be it when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. ..." John 16:13.

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia ..." Acts 16:6.

4. It is the Holy Spirit who makes us Christ-centered, that is, solution-centered. It is He who keeps us from going into orbit around self and selfish problems.

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." John 15:26.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18.

5. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to present Jesus to the sinner instead of focusing his attention on things, even good things, apart from Christ.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

Peter's Spirit-filled, Pentecostal sermon uplifted Jesus in a mighty way. This sermon also showed how others, like David, could say, "I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope." Acts 2:25, 26.

6. The Holy Spirit supplies a converting joy in the life of the newborn follower of the Lord which continues as we let Him lead us.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." Psalm 51:10-13.

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. . . And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:37-39, 46, 47.

7. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin in a beautiful blending way of righteous hope.

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8.

Understanding the work of the Holy Spirit is to (1) relieve us of the galling task of thinking that we are to continually point out the bad habits of others in order to bring them to conviction; (2) and to relieve us of thinking that we are to keep looking at our own unworthy habits, or life of sin, in order to be saved. What a change in marriages, in homes, and in churches when we grasp the wonderful truth that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the godhead, has the authority and the power to bring conviction! He brings reproof in such a beautifully, balanced way, so as to assure the sinner of righteousness and appearing in the judgment safe in Christ's righteousness. He reproves "of sin, because they believe not on me." John 16:9. He convinces of "righteousness." Verse 10.

He convinces "of judgment, because the prince of this world [Satan] is judged." Verse 11.

The Holy Spirit is not trying to bring galling reproof to us. He wants us to know if we believe on Christ, the judgment that was to fall on us will eventually fall on Satan. Thus, not we but "the prince of this world is judged." Verse 11.

8. We can tell whether one has the Holy Spirit, not by the gifts (such as tongues, prophecy, or faith, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3), but "ye shall know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:16.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. ..." Galatians 5:22, 23.

Having a true Bible picture of the fruit of the Spirit, we no longer fall into the error of equating the Holy Spirit with a sanctimonious life. We now know what fruit should be in our lives when the Holy Spirit reigns supreme. If the fruit is not there, let us ask the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, to come into our own lives.

9. We can come to Him for the gift of love.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love. ..." Galatians 5:22.

". .. the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:5.

10. We can come to Him for the gift of peace.

"The fruit of the Spirit is . . . peace ..." Galatians 5:22.

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:26, 27.

11. We can come to Him for the gift of joy.

"The fruit of the Spirit is ... joy, . . ." Galatians 5:22.

12. To receive the Holy Spirit and His joy and peace, we must believe.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:13.

13. We no longer have to high-pressure sinful souls to obey.

The Holy Spirit takes care of this by creating a new heart that normally wants to obey.

"The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Romans 8:7.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. ..." Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

14. We make it a practice to ask for the Holy Spirit before every sermon, Bible study, and personal visit in a home.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Luke 11:13.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE:

Dear Student:

May we recommend that you try claiming the promise of the Holy Spirit. Claim the promise of Luke 11:13 every time you seem to be without knowledge as to how to speak to John Doe.

Many years ago we started this practice. We have learned that the Holy Spirit can do more in one moment than we can do in a lifetime. So we claim Him and we claim wisdom. James 1:5.

We lift our hearts in secret silent prayer when in the presence of John Doe. Often by claiming His presence, His wisdom, His power we say little. Often the less we say the more John can hear the Holy Spirit speak in a "still small voice." Most of us "jabber" too much. We forget that "in quietness and confidence shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15.

Many times a very quiet, confidential expression is worth a thousand words spoken in excited emotion. Often it is much better to let John Doe explode, explain, expand while we pray, and claim the presence of the Holy Spirit. One expression spoken very quietly and unemotionally can produce wonderful results. It could be, "I believe in you." Other expressions could be, "I am sorry"; "Forgive me"; "You are going to fulfill a great mission with the Lord's help." These and other simple statements can be used by the Holy Spirit to work wonders. They conform to the seven secrets of soul-winning communication. Also the seven laws apply to marital harmony, church harmony, social peace, and reconciliation.

Cordially yours,

Glenn Coon, Sr.

Glenn Coon, Jr.

HAVE NO FEAR

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalms 27:1

QUIZ ON LESSON 9:

1. Not by might, nor by power, but by my _____ saith the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6.
2. A man must be born again of water and the _____ John 3:5.
3. "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will _____ you." John 16:13.
4. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit "will testify of _____ John 15:26.
5. We receive _____ after the Holy Ghost comes upon us to witness to Christ. Acts 1: 8.
6. The Holy Spirit restores to us the _____ of salvation. Psalm 51:12, 13.
7. The Holy Spirit reproves of _____ John 16:8.

Correct Answers on Answer Sheet.