



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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Secret Prayer

Excerpt from *Availing Prayer* by: Fay C. Martin

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” (Matt. 6:6).

Perhaps too many are desirous of the open reward, viz., the name of being real spiritual, who are leaving undone the first or primary cause of deep spirituality, which is secret prayer and communion with the Father in heaven.

Christ is our great teacher and our example of how and when to pray. He frequently withdrew from the disciples and from the multitudes that He might be alone with God, there to pour out His heart in secret prayer, there to tell God of His trials, His heartaches, His temptations, etc., and in turn to receive grace and comfort for the needs of the hour. Surely God rewarded Him openly before the whole world, before the people of all ages and climes and races and colors.

God can best teach us when alone with Him, shut out from the confusion and strife of every-day life and its surroundings, with its multitudinous cares and worries. Every Christian should have a secret place to meet Him and then the more important thing, meet Him in that place. Meet Him in the “secret place of the Most High.”

Abraham, alone with God, fell on his face and cried, “I am but dust and ashes” (Gen. 18:27). In the presence of the Almighty One, alone with Him, one feels and admits his smallness, his nothingness, and therefore his heart and soul and whole being are made to feel humble. He is bound to be rewarded openly by the very act and attitude of humility. A proper sense of his majesty will never fail to produce a sacred awe. If reverence is ever needed it is in the presence of God alone, and if one fails to show it there he never will show it openly. The habit of reverence is formed while in

the secret place with God so that when appearance is made in public a reverential attitude follows. We ask—is lack of this secret communion one of the main reasons of today’s lack of reverence for God’s house? This is worthy of our attention and study.

Praying in public merely to be heard can be cured by much prayer in secret. If not interested in communing with God in secret, how can we expect to do so in public? No interest in private worship but a big public show of interested adoration is hypocrisy and that of the worst sort. God is displeased with such, and God’s frown is hell; His smile is heaven.

Sincere prayer offered from within the temple of God, and “ye are the temple of God” (1 Cor. 3:16), is the gate to heaven. It makes the pathway smooth and pleasant, giving us such an anticipation of future and eternal bliss that one following this pathway will eventually land within heaven’s walls.

God’s whole nature is opposed to sin, and pride, and arrogance. Usually either sin in the heart, or pride in the life, or arrogance or defiance in the nature, is that which keeps one from secret communion with his Father in heaven.

Many have secret sins which should be confessed to God in secret and can hardly be confessed in any other manner. Not only public acts of crime are brought to judgment but every secret thing. “Nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest” (Luke 8:17). Alone with God, from whom nothing is hidden, is a sacred thought. He it is who “searches the heart and tries the reins.” He can best do so in secret.

God’s all-seeing eye is a flame of fire, before one flash of which the heavens and earth flee away. How great His justice, power, wisdom, and love. “But the greatest of these is charity [love]” (1 Cor. 13:13). To be alone with heaven’s greatest Lover, yea with Love itself, is a mighty privilege. As one enters the secret place with “a broken and contrite heart” God’s sterner attributes are overshadowed by His tender and infinite love. “The Lord pitieth them that fear him.” “He remembereth that we are dust” (Ps. 103:13, 14).

Alone with God means shut in from the world. It implies being shut up with God. Above everything else we desire to be alone with the one we love most. Jesus has informed us we should love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. Does the present generation love something else better than it loves God? Is the lack of private devotion an evidence of the little love for God? God help us to pour out our devotion and adoration and love and praise and reverence and

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Secret Prayer

Excerpt from *Availing Prayer* by: Fay C. Martin (*continued*)

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admiration in secret worship, lest God be justified in believing we love something or someone else better than we love Him.

Loving Him with all the heart, the secret place of meeting with Him becomes dearest of all earth's spots. It is there we commune with heaven itself; there, where no eye witnesses the meeting; there, where no ear listens to the whispered words of love and admiration; there, where there is no embarrassment. Such is an ideal interview between a loving Father and His trusting child. Without reserve the heart there opens wide for divine inspection, while its innermost secrets are bared to His tender gaze.

Some thoughts, troubles, and confessions can be told only to the truest friends. Many of us have had our secrets betrayed by those in whom we placed absolute and implicit confidence, till we almost came to believe no one could be trusted with a secret. But if the whole world has failed us, and friend and foe alike frown upon us, then we are privileged to go to our Father, the Friend of friends, in whom we may feel perfectly safe to confide. Reader, when tempted and tried and weary and worn and feeling it would be a big relief to be able to unburden your heart to some trusted friend, just steal away to the secret place of His presence, unload it all on Him, as you would on a man or woman, and see what instant relief and comfort are yours. Try it out and thereafter you will feel more like confiding in Him than any other. Furthermore, there will be no danger of the secret's leaking out.

No one can or will sympathize like Jesus. Some might if they could, but they cannot do so. In the secret with Jesus one can crawl into His strong, loving arms and there bury his face in Jesus' bosom, as the troubled, injured child does with a tender, loving mother. Many of us have longed to rest in the bosom of mother once more, just for a few moments, there to pour out our troubles and sorrows in turn for which we receive those loving caresses and gentle words of comfort. But Mother is not here now. She has gone to be with Jesus, upon whose loving breast she finds comfort. May we not expect that if He is allowed to do so He will take us in one arm and her in the other, while lavishing His caresses, which never fail to soothe and comfort the aching heart.

Jacob wrestled alone, and at night, and prevailed. If one really desires to learn to pray and how to pray the best place to be is alone with God. There it is one learns to stick to it and to stick till one has prevailed and the blessing is in his possession.

Luther, with tremendous responsibility bearing down upon him, like the weight of worlds, could afford to take three hours daily for secret prayer and devotion. Said he, "I have so many duties before me to be performed this day that I cannot afford not to take three hours for secret communion

with God." Through prayer he discomfited and paralyzed his legion of foes, sending them into oblivion.

"Thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" - one hundredfold of blessings and victories in this life and in the world to come "life everlasting." It is in the secret place of prayer that heaven comes down to earth to meet our souls, while above, shining scribes are making up our credits, filing away our titles and inheritances, piling up nuggets of gold in the heavenly treasury, polishing the crown of life, decorating with jewels the scepters of power, preparing the mansions in God's house, building flights of steps for our future ascension, placing a seat beside His throne that we may reign with Him forever and ever, and this all for the one who receives his reward in secret, rather than desiring to be seen of men and honored here below.

Too few know very much about the secret place of the Most High. Secret, prevailing prayer is the language of a devoted, spiritual church. Coming from glowing hearts of such, secret prayer will move mountains. Such is the blessing of the fellowship of supreme affection. Such affection glows as the fires of a furnace.

A missionary, after years spent in Russia laboring for Christ and lost souls, returned to his old home. His father and mother had both passed on to be with Jesus. One of his brothers was living at the old homestead. The furniture was arranged and stood in the same places as when he was a boy at home. He was permitted at night to stay in his old boyhood bed in the same room in which he formerly slept. But he could not sleep. The night passed by while he lay meditating on the old home life. Old familiar scenes came up before his mind of father, of mother, of brothers and sisters playing together. As the morning light began to dawn he looked out the window and there he beheld the very spot where mother, years before, had said, "Come, my dear, kneel down with me and I will pray." This was his mother's secret place of prayer. Then he burst into tears, hurriedly dressed, and knelt on the same spot and thanked God for a praying mother.

A miner of Yorkshire one morning had family worship and started in company with four others to the mine. They were engaged in opening up a new pit which during the forenoon caved in, catching them all. Four of them finally extricated themselves, but this man was buried up to his neck and another immediate slide was imminent. They worked desperately to free him, but found it impossible and he directed them to place a stone so as to protect his head, saying, "Escape for your life, for it is well I am taken instead of you, for I am ready and you are not." The few remaining moments were spent in prayer and the earth fell, burying him alive.

[Note from the editor: In reference to the last paragraph of this excerpt, we would all do well to be ready to meet God at all times.]

Pilgrims of the Victorious Life

Excerpt from *Adventures in the Land of Canaan* By: R. L. Berry

Please tell me, will you, if a really victorious life is possible to me; I mean a day-by-day, year-in-and-year-out experience? I have so much of struggle and battle in my life that a life of constant victory seems a vague, far-away dream. It seems to me that the only ones capable of obtaining and retaining this blissful state are those living very sheltered lives and with few obstacles in their way. These may live victoriously; but as for me, with my toils and troubles of various kinds, how can it be possible? I have met many victorious Christians. Of course I do not know how it is with them; but I believe their sweet temper pointed plainly to the fact that their lives had fallen in very pleasant places. Can you give me any clew to this matter? If a victorious life is possible for me, I want it. Will you help me? Thank you!

Well, upon my word! There goes Pilgrim Serene, who lives in Poverty Vale, close by Caleb's fair Hebron home! Shall we engage her in conversation? They say she is one of the sweetest tempered pilgrims in Canaan, and yet we are told that her home is in one of the poorest spots in the land. And who is that walking by her side! She seems to be very happy. Oh, yes, that is Pilgrim Joyful! And where does she live? They say she lives in Trouble Hollow, close by Offense Mountain. My, those names sound ominous, don't they! Do let us engage them in conversation; for it seems sweeter faced pilgrims we never have seen.

"May we walk with you in the way? And may we inquire about your home in Canaan, and why it is you seem so happy and calm? We are only a few days over the Jordan, and are trying to learn all we can of the land. Where did you get those beautiful flowers in your hands? Tell us your experiences! Please do!"

"You are welcome to our company, gladly. I am Pilgrim Serene; my companion is Pilgrim Joyful. These flowers came from the garden of Patient Endurance, which is situated on Mount Calm. The flowers are free to all pilgrims; but the road to the garden is a very rough road, and thorn-bushes fringe it for a considerable distance. Some pilgrims once organized a band to clear out the thorns; but the bushes have such a tough bark that no knife was able to cut through them. So they stand there still. Another band gathered out the stones; but new stones fall from the cliffs above all the time, and some of the new stones are worse to cut the feet of pilgrims than the old ones were. So it is thought best to let the path alone. Just smell how sweet these are!"

"Where do you live, Pilgrim Serene?"

"I live in Poverty Vale. The floor of the valley is very hard and poor. But Immanuel walks and talks with me. Every day he comes and helps me; every day he lifts burdens off my back. Showers of blessing fall every day or two."

"You never have any trouble do you, Pilgrim Serene? I am sure you do not; for you look so free from care and worry."

"My dear pilgrim, I have a struggle all the time. I never know what it is to be free from pain or poverty. If it were not for Honey Rock, I certainly should have famished long ago."

"Where is Honey Rock?"

"Oh, it borders the Vale, high up in the mountains. Only a faint path leads to it; for it seems only a few pilgrims know where it is. And besides, it is the roughest path I ever tried to follow. But once one is at the Rock, all one has to do to feast on the nectar is to smite the Rock in the name of Immanuel, and forthwith there comes out the most delicious honey in all the world."

"Oh, we wish to eat of it! But, there is that rough foot-path. I don't know whether we can walk it or not!"

"Have you been to Honey Rock too, Pilgrim Joyful?"

"Yes, pilgrims, I have. I was there yesterday."

"Is it that which caused the scratches and blood stains on your feet and hands and which tore your garments?"

"Yes, pilgrims. As to my home, it is in Trouble Hollow. Offense Mountain rises high on two sides of it. Not many pilgrims like my home; but Immanuel gave it to me, and any home in Canaan is preferable to the best spot in the Wilderness, better than the grandest mansion in Egypt. It is true my home is in a dark valley, and old Offense Mountain has continual landslides that I have to help clear away; but, glory and praises to Immanuel! a bare existence in Canaan surpasses anything I ever enjoyed before. Halleluia! Angels in bands visit me often. Heaven seems in sight!"

"Thank you Serene and Joyful. We shall be glad to meet you again."

These two pilgrims whose lives are spent in Canaan's most troubled spots have a holy serenity that shames us when we think of how we complain at a few hard things that we have met. Thank God for such pilgrims!

Here is a true story. Mrs. B is a cripple woman who walks with a crutch. Years ago she was converted and later was wholly sanctified. Her husband was a wicked man who gave her a great deal of trouble and at last died and left her with several children. They were miserably poor. She took her family overland for a hundred miles to another place, walking and carrying their effects as best they could. She is still poor, though her children have now become self-supporting. NO one could think of anything harder to go through with than this woman hand. Her physical handicap prevented her doing many things she could otherwise have done, she was compelled to work at the hardest jobs, and had to see her children grow up without schooling. All was hard; just plain hard living. If the family had enough to eat, it was a thing to be thankful for. And yet, in those years this woman has always been cheer-

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He Worketh in us Mightily

Excerpt from *The Holy Spirit* By: R. L. Berry

A Power Within

Eph. 1:19-20, Eph. 3:20-21

The salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ is a thing of the heart and soul. The religion he founded effectuates a change inside. It is built on spiritual lines and operates with and on spiritual entities. It depends for its success upon what it can do for the soul, mind, and heart of mankind. The great growth of Christianity is the best testimony of its power to change men's habits and lives by something which it does within men themselves. It is not by the power of a commandment that the lives of men are changed, but it is by changing the men themselves so that out of the new life which is in them there arises a new kind of outward life.

The apostle Paul struggled to find words that would adequately portray the greatness of that thing which he had found. He knew what it had done for him, so suddenly and so miraculously, near the gate of Damascus. It was, he said, something like that which occurred when Jesus was resurrected, when mighty power turned sharply back every process of decay and dissolution and out of the very maw of death snatched the prey alive forevermore. Of course we can hardly understand that. We are dealing with such tremendous things that our minds reel in the attempt to fathom them and our thoughts are too feeble to express them. But we know what it means to have a dead man arise from the dead. When that happens we know that mighty power somewhere has been exerted.

Paul is saying that what happens to a soul is like what happened to Jesus at the resurrection. The same power that raised him raises us. The same power that brought him to life brings us to life. And this power is exerted all unseen to our eyes. It is a power that works "in us."

The Dynamic of the Church is a Hidden Power

Col. 1:27-29

The message of Pentecost is that the church's dynamic is the Holy Spirit, that so long as the people of God are "filled with the Holy Ghost" the mighty works of God are manifested. And the Holy Ghost is not seen by the natural eye.

It is common in our day to see swiftly moving and powerful passenger cars racing along the tracks. The source of power may be miles away. In thousand of factories dynamos move all kinds of machines, but the powerhouse may be hundreds of miles distant.

The Holy Spirit is the power. He is the whole dynamic of the Christian church. From him every spiritual energy comes, all the sacrifices and all efforts of Christians to do good are born of the Holy Spirit. This was apparent in the lives of the apostles. The coming of the Spirit changed the apostles and the infant church, changed them and

charged them with spiritual dynamite. The first twelve chapters of the Acts show how great a thing had happened to those early Christians. What they had was wholly incomprehensible to their neighbors and persecutors. They recognized in some vague manner that they had "been with Jesus," but by what power or by what name they had healed the lame man at the gate of the temple they were at a loss to know. That was too much for them. But the apostles knew. Their whole deportment was inexplicable on any logical or material grounds. What would cause men with the taste of life that those men had to forsake it and devote their lives to preaching Jesus?

Where did the motive for sacrifice come from? Where did the power to suffer persecution originate? What was it that enabled them to lay down their lives for Christ? Can anyone explain that? What was it that made the early Christians sell their property to further the cause? What sent Paul on that remarkable career of missionary endeavor over the Romano Empire? What is the explanation?

Primarily, it was Jesus Christ. It was for him that they did what they did. They were believers on him. But, practically, it was because they were filled with the Holy Ghost.

Today we can find any number of people who say they believe in Jesus. Many probably believe on him as much as did the apostles. But they will not sacrifice very much for Jesus, they will not give even much money to his cause, and money is about the easiest thing to give nowadays. They will not sacrifice much time. They want that for themselves. They will not put forth much effort. They need that in their business. They will not go across mountain or sea for souls, for they love ease and home better.

A baptism of the Holy Ghost will immediately change any such Christians into firebrands for God, into consecrated, sacrificing, willing, joyful Christians, who will stir their communities as they never have been stirred before and go to the ends of the earth with the message of salvation.

Spiritual Sap

Eph 2.1

We ordinarily pay too much attention to the outward life and not enough to the inner condition. Life is not regulated by outward, but by inner forces. Many sincere and honest Christians pay entirely too much attention to their outward acts. They fall into the error of putting all their washing of the cup on the outside of it. Of course they desire to be all pure within, but their mistake comes in watching the outside instead of the inside.

This error is not committed solely by overconscientious souls, but by careless souls, and by most souls. The overconscientious soul is constantly washing the outside in an endeavor to believe that the inside is clean as it should be. The careless soul neglects both the outside and the inside, while many souls fail to keep the inside full of God, full of spiritual

Pilgrims of the Victorious Life (*cont'd*)

Excerpt from *Adventures in the Land of Canaan* By: R. L. Berry

ful, and gives a brilliant testimony to the grace of God to keep her sweet and joyful.

Another case is that of "Brother H," we shall call him. Brother H. was afflicted with tuberculosis. He was called to the ministry, and was a splendid singer, mightily gifted in prayer, and was used of God in working several remarkable miracles of healing. His family was numerous, much more so than his afflicted condition made possible for him to support. He lived in a small three-room house, with eight or nine children and an overburdened wife. He could do no work. His neighbors frowned on him and persecuted him mildly for not working. His home was the very picture of poverty; nothing could be worse in that line, scarcely. Yet he was a man of the highest Christian integrity and faith, and was one of the happiest Christians one could meet. And his happiness was not that of the careless man, not the happiness of a callous, uneducated person; for he felt keenly the poverty to which he was subjected and was always embarrassed at his state and the condition of his home. He had that fine intuition and grace of a gentleman of the highest order; and yet he was happy in the Lord. His happiness was the genuine joy of full salvation in his heart, born of a faith that believed all things were working together for his good.

Entire sanctification is not something that takes troubles out of the life, neither does it change one's outward circumstances; but it does lift the soul above all earthly troubles and let it soar in God's free air of victory.

To the fully consecrated soul there are no "second causes"; that is, no one is between him and God who can harm him or affect him in any way apart from God's will. It may be that others will mistreat us grievously, and their acts be wrong and utterly opposed to God's will; but those acts have had to pass God's will in getting to us. By this they become the will of God to us. For instance, some one may persecute us. The spirit of persecution is wicked and God has nothing to do with it; but before that persecution reaches us it must pass God's will; so the persecution becomes God's will to us, and we bear it for his sake. God may put some bad medicine in human bottles and cause us to drink of them for our good.

This victorious life is a life on wings. We are to mount up with wings as eagles. The wings are faith and consecration. When troubles come, we flap our wings and fly over them. Since we are God's, it is his place to bring us out and help us over, hence the fully consecrated soul trusts, and lets God work matters out. Of course, this does not mean that we shall not help ourselves. In fact, little trust can be exercised until we have done all we can do to help ourselves; but if we cannot avail or prevail, we carry it to the Lord and leave it with him to work out.

David speaks of the Lord's hiding him in his secret place, in his pavilion, under his wings. Jesus has said that not a hair of our head shall fall without our Father's notice. Peter says we

are to cast all our care upon God, for God careth for us. And Paul exhorts us to be careful for nothing, but with prayer and thanksgiving let our requests be known to God.

The greatest of all comforts is this, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28). "All things" means all things. The Christian who gives up all is certain of God's continual care and protection. He cannot expect to escape trouble or trial or temptation; but he is kept in these things. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." That is, nothing shall cause them to fall. They may be hurt, and be wounded by the inconsiderate or deliberate acts or words of others; but they will sail on in peace in God.

The will of God surrounds us like a wall, and nothing can penetrate that wall and touch our consecrated souls unless God so wills, or permits.

Of all lives, the victorious life is the richest and best. There is joy in serving, giving, sacrificing. If we are persecuted for Christ's sake, there is great joy. Life's problems are met with faith. A colored woman who had to wash for a living was very happy all the time. Rich women would marvel at her peace of mind, and one time one of them chided her for her optimism, which to the rich woman seemed based on nothing. "Why, suppose you should get sick, or suppose something should happen," said her rich friend. "Oh, I never supposes," said the poor woman. "That is what is the matter with you, you supposes and supposes and imagines all kinds of ill coming on you. The Lord is my shepherd, and I shall not want. So I never supposes, I know everything will come out all right." She just flapped her wings, so to speak, and flew over her troubles.

The victorious life is free from worry, fretting, overanxious solicitude, burdensome care. It is free from malice, ill will, retaliation. It is free from bad temper, sees the bright side of things, and wears its clouds inside out. The sanctified life is a life of faith, and it is a life of obedience. To trust has to it become a habit, to obey a second nature. The victorious life looks not behind, but ahead; it ignores past failures and goes forward in faith.

And this victorious life is for all. Instead of being for favored folk, it is for the weak, the burdened, the poor, the sick, the troubled, the persecuted. Enter in by consecration and faith. Yield all just now. Lay all on God's altar. Be his alone. Then by faith enter into this life which will be yours every day as you live by faith and trust and obey.

Jesus' Last Meeting with His Disciples

*From Egermeier's Picture-Story Life of Christ—Story #61
Mark 16:15-19; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-14*

Forty days have passed since the Resurrection. During these days Jesus often spoke with his disciples about the kingdom of God. Still they did not understand that it would not be an earthly kingdom, like the kingdom of David. At last the time came for their farewell meeting.

During this time Jesus appeared to his disciples, and “when they say him, they worshiped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

While they talked earnestly together, Jesus said, “John the Baptist baptized you with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.”

Some of the disciples asked, “Will you at that time restore the kingdom of Israel?”

Jesus said, “It is not for you to know the plans of the heavenly Father; but you shall receive power from heaven when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and this power will cause you to witness boldly to me in Jerusalem, in all the country of Judea, in Samaria, and in the farthest parts of the world. But do not go away from Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit is given to you.”

While Jesus talked to them they were standing together on the Mount of Olives, and suddenly the disciples saw him being caught up into heaven. They watched until he disappeared from sight in bright clouds, after which they saw him no more. But still they stood gazing upward, hoping to catch one more glimpse of their departing Lord. Then two angels came and stood beside them, clothed in beautiful garments of white. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven will come again in the same manner as he went away.”

Then they left the place and went into Jerusalem, into a room upstairs, where they met together with other friends of Jesus to wait and to pray until the promised Comforter should be given to them. No longer were they sorrowing; great joy filled their hearts because they knew that Jesus is really the Christ.

Questions

1. Whom did Jesus say he would send to the disciples after he should go away?
2. Where did Jesus have his farewell talk with his disciples?
3. What wonderful event took place there?

- Answers
1. Another Comforter
 2. On the Mount of Olives
 3. Jesus ascended to heaven.

God's Way is Right

By: A. K. Chancellor

Some people sleep and bide their time,
They hope they're saved at last,
But woe, the doom for them is come,
So soon, and time has passed;
Oh listen, sinner, to the plea,
Be saved by Jesus' blood,
You must come, while he calls on you,
This is the will of God.

Professors claim, but do not have,
The grace of God so sweet,
They live a life of misery,
Their lie is their defeat;
They hope to gain that blest abode,
The price they will not pay,
How sad the fate, and verdict is,
“You're lost!” on judgment day.

Old pride will cost your soul if you,
The truth will not believe,
Why not repent to God today?
His grace you could receive!
You cannot pick your time to come,
But when your guilt's impressed,
The spirit bids and welcomes you,
Your sins must be confessed.

Repent with Godly sorrow friend,
No other way is right,
Then God will give the grace you need,
Your soul he will enlight;
'Tis not accomplished in one day,
This race against all wrong,
But step by step you grow in grace,
The Spirit guides you on.

Bible Study—The Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9)

By: S. L. Speck

- I. The effects of the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us
 1. Destroys the power of sin—Rom. 8:10
 2. Makes us alive to righteousness—Rom 8:10,11
 3. Witnesses to our salvation—Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24
 4. Implants in us good fruit—Gal. 5:22, 23
- II. The Spirit of Christ
 1. Is the Spirit of truth—John 16:13
 2. Is a good spirit—Psa. 143:10
 3. Is a meek spirit—1 Cor. 4:21; 1 Pet. 3:4; Gal. 6:1
 4. Is an humble spirit—Isa. 57:15
 5. Is the spirit of glory—1 Pet. 4:14
 6. Is the spirit of burning—Isa. 4:4
 7. Is easy to be entreated—Jas. 3:17, 18
 8. Is full of mercy—Jas. 3:17

He Worketh in us Mightily

Excerpt from *The Holy Spirit* By: R. L. Berry (*continued*)

life.

We must pay more attention to the filling, to the exuberance of spiritual life within. If that life is strong and vigorous the outer life will be in conformity to it.

This condition of spiritual life is the very thing about which enough has not been said. It is obscured and not brought sufficiently forth so that God's children may understand. We have, perhaps, asked for an acceptance of doctrinal truth and emphasized right belief so much that many have neglected the inner, divine life of the Spirit. Doctrine is highly important. Let us stretch it over its real territory and include the doctrine of the power of the life of the Spirit within.

The Holy Spirit wishes to work "in us mightily" and shed abroad all his life-giving energy in our souls. Where he is there is life. Where he rules there is abundant life. Where he "fills" the soul there is abounding, triumphant life. Let those who are overconscientious, those who are careless, become filled with the Spirit, and the Holy Spirit will become the power, the joy, and the victory himself, and that soul will thrill with the pulsations of a spiritual life that flows full and free.

The Works of God are Wrought Within

Isa. 26:12; 1 Cor. 15:10

The work of God begins with the awakening of the soul. The prodigal son "came to himself," that is, he awakened to see things as they really are. He saw himself as a swine-feeder far from home. He saw his home and his old father sitting there waiting to welcome him back. He saw what a fool he had been. He saw that all that so-called "good time" had led him to an end that was deplorable and desperate. This is exactly what the Spirit of God does. He awakens the soul to see facts as they are.

And this awakening is all done within, in the secret chambers of the soul.

The Spirit of God is he who convicts. "He will reprove the world of sin" (John 16:8). Yes, it is he who arrests the sinner and tells him that his life is displeasing to the heavenly Father. All real conviction comes from the Holy Spirit. He works in revival meetings mightily. Prayer puts him at work on hearts. Through prayer the convicting power of the Holy Ghost will be focused upon the one whom you name in your petition, and he will have a visit from God.

When one repents under divine conviction the Holy Spirit witnesses to his sonship. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16). In this stage of one's Christian experience the Holy Spirit is with the disciple.

But the Holy Ghost has a great surprise for the believer. He has something still better for him. You, dear believer, are invited to a feast of "fat things," as the prophet said.

You have tasted deep, but there is an infilling of the Spirit, a coming in of the Blesser himself. This is the baptism of the Holy Ghost, your Pentecost! It is for you.

Everything of a spiritual nature in the work of God is done within. The soul and heart are the seat of God's operations. Oh, how important that the heart be kept with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life!

Why Christians are Weak

Heb. 5:11-14

Christians are weak because they do not have the Holy Spirit abiding within in his fullness. There may be reasons why they are not filled with the Spirit. First, they may be like the disciples which Paul found at Ephesus who did not so much as know whether there is any Holy Ghost. Their minister may not preach of the Holy Spirit in a manner that enlightens and convicts the soul.

Then it is possible that in making the consecration for the Holy Ghost to come it was a mechanical consecration, something on the order of a dedication without much conviction of the momentous issues involved. God always accepts all that is yielded to him and blesses the soul correspondingly. Many persons have made a consecration and have been blessed who really did not, however, consecrate in a way to actually receive the baptism.

It may be possible, indeed it seems to be a fact, that many who once were filled with the Spirit and were lively and active and consecrated in the service, have for some reason or other become somewhat lukewarm. Some have gone farther and have drifted into a kind of philosophical frame of mind about things spiritual. Others have become cynical of religious convictions and about all they hold to is respectability in religious conduct. They pray, but they do not expect much from it. They perform various church duties, but with little spirit. They easily lean toward the formal in worship and service.

Some of these may not be to blame, at least not too much. Our teaching on the deeper things of the Spirit may have been inadequate to the need. Unfortunate spiritual experiences, misfortunes in their prayer life, and unanswered prayers, and such, have not been explained to them and many a sincere soul hides the secret of spiritual defeat deep in the recesses of his own soul. Sometimes persons have unburdened their hearts to someone only to be thrown into greater distress for doing so.

In such cases a new infilling of the Holy Ghost is what is needed. He comes again. There may be a second Pentecost, a new and powerful infilling. Usually the souls who need this second or new infilling will find themselves lacking in the vibrant Christian life. They will find their love not so warm and fervent, little flesh-pleasing things are allowed to dampen religious convictions of the keener sort,

He Worketh In Us Mightily

Excerpt from *The Holy Spirit* By: R. L. Berry (continued)

little duties left undone. So a new and deeper consecration is in order and should be made. The soul should cry out, confessing whatever things it may need, and a new out-pouring will come.

The Holy Spirit is well acquainted with every spiritual misfortune of every soul on earth. He knows the secret of the failure. He also knows just how to teach that soul the secret of success and unravel the mystery of the misfortune in the spiritual life.

Christians are weak because they get poor or bad advice from those from whom they seek help. It happens sometimes that the one who is seeking advice goes to one who is in doubt himself and in such a case the one is hindered instead of helped. One doubter destroys much good. One cynic of spiritual leadings will pour out enough discouragement to hinder many souls.

Christians are strong in exactly the measure of their being filled with the Spirit and their wisdom and knowledge of his operations.

The Difference between "With" and "In"

John 14:17

The word of inspiration makes a fine distinction here between "with" and "in". And this difference in reality is vast.

In one sense the Holy Spirit is with every soul on earth. In another sense he is with the justified Christian, witnessing to his sonship and helping him. But Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a Comforter who should come in and abide with us forever.

This is the meaning of Pentecost. Look at the apostles before and after Pentecost. The change was greater than that which is shown in pictures of before and after taking some kinds of medicine. It is the difference between "with" and "in."

Many Christians have the "with you" experience. What they need is the "in you" experience.

New Spiritual Dynamos Needed

Acts 2:4

Each Christian needs, unless he already has it, a new spiritual dynamo set up in his soul. Every congregation needs just that if it is to accomplish the work of God in the world. God the Father waits your invitation to give you the Holy Spirit.

When one looks out, as Jesus said to do, and sees the fields of men, he feels led to fall upon his knees and ask for greater ability to go into the harvest. When one views the suffering that mortals undergo through diseases it stirs him to obtain some gift of the Spirit to help them through to healing. It makes one long for the four men of faith who will pick up the sick and overcome all obstacles in getting him to Jesus.

On every side are needs. There are children who know nothing of Jesus. Many are trying to lead them to know

God merely by the road of nature and there the poor little souls stand wondering who God is.

There is the field of the heathen, and missionary zeal languishes under the assault of Modernism, which finds much good in heathen religions, so much that Christianity is not far enough ahead of it to be worth propagating.

On every side, within the ranks of the church, and outside in the ranks of the unbelieving, there are dangers and challenges and things innumerable to be done and mountain-high obstacles to be overcome. And all of this calls loudly for more ability, more power.

That power is in the Holy Spirit. Let us lay upon our faces before God until we are "endued with power from on high."

Holy Spirit, Be My Guide

By: Clara M. Brooks

By the promise of the Father,
Comes the Spirit from on high,
Into hearts redeemed from evil,
By his pow'r to sanctify.

Reigning there without a rival,
Paradise is now restored;
Perfect peace, abiding pleasure,
Bless the world cannot afford.

Pow'r to overcome he gives us,
Pow'r to reign thro' Jesus' grace,
Holy boldness in each conflict,
Entrance to that heav'nly place.

Since the Comforter abideth,
Naught my spirit can molest;
I am sanctified and happy—
Sweet and peaceful is my rest.

Holy Spirit, faithful Teacher,
In my trusting heart abide;
By thy sacred, holy presence
Be my Comforter and Guide.

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.