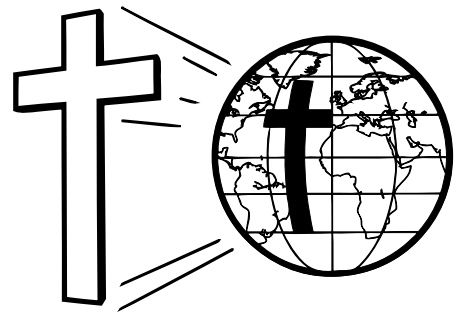


Foundation of Faith



THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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SANCTIFICATION?

TURN ON THE POWER

“HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME”

FATHER OF A PRODIGAL CHILD

FATHERS WHO ARE A BLESSING

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Dear Reader!

We have a wonderful Savior and Redeemer! Jesus Christ Himself testified, “I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8).

Although the Lord exists from eternity to eternity, He revealed Himself to us. He stepped out of eternity, for He created the realm of space-time in which we exist. God’s Word shows us that every event, everything that happens on earth, begins and is fulfilled according to His plan.

Let us take the time period of 40 days or years:

-40 days of rain during the flood (Genesis 7:11-12)

-40 days, twice, that Moses spent on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18 and Exodus 34:28)

-40 days of spying out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:25)

-40 years of the Israelites wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33-35)

-40 days that Elijah traveled to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8)

-40 days of grace for Nineveh (Jonah 3:4)

-40 days Jesus fasted in the desert (Matthew 4:1-2)

-40 days the Son of God allowed Himself to be seen after His resurrection and spoke with the disciples about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3)

We can further confirm that every event occurs according to God’s plan and is completely fulfilled through the events of Jesus’ birth and His promise of the Comforter: “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4)—“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:1-2).

God’s actions have always occurred according to His timetable. It was never coincidence. Likewise, He will also direct our life if we fully lay it in His hands.

H. D. Nimz

“More Love to Thee”

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (Philippians 1:9-11).

“To love Christ more is the deepest need, the constant cry of the soul . . . out in the woods, and on my bed, and out driving, when I am happy and busy, and when I am sad and idle, the whisper keeps going up for more love, more love, more love!”

These were the words of Elizabeth Prentiss (1818-1878), wife of a minister and author of this song. Many of her friends described her as “a small woman with sparkling eyes and lively humor, who wanted to be a light in her own happy home rather than in larger circles of society.” Elizabeth was strong in her soul but physically weak. All her life, she was sickly and rarely without pain.

“More Love to Thee” was written by Elizabeth Prentiss in a time of great personal suffering; she had lost two children, one shortly after the other. For weeks, she was inconsolable. She wrote in her diary, “Empty hands, a worn-out, exhausted body, and unutterable longings to flee from a world that has had so many sharp experiences for me.”

During this period of grief, Mrs. Prentiss began meditating on the story of Jacob in the Old Testament. She noted how God met him in a very special way during his times of suffering and need. Elizabeth prayed earnestly that she could have a similar experience. While she was in deep thought and prayer one evening, the following four verses were created, words that have since become a prayer for many devout believers worldwide:

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee;
This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek—give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
This still its prayer shall be; more love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Labored Not in Vain

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Once many years ago, a missionary had dared to set foot in the forbidden land of Tibet, neighbor to China, in order to spread the Gospel. Things did not go well for her. No foreigner was allowed to enter this country. It wanted to keep its customs and its established religion. Woe to whoever dared to disturb their peace! The missionary had barely made an appearance before she was attacked. She was imprisoned, tortured in many ways, and transported by soldiers back over the Chinese border.

However, during her short stay in Tibet, the missionary had not been idle. Even though she was prohibited from preaching, she found a way to introduce the people of Tibet to the Lord. Every now and then she would let a page of the Bible fall to the ground and asked the Lord to allow the sowing of His Word to bring fruit.

One of these pages was found by a young man, who quickly read the entire thing. One Bible verse especially touched his heart. It contained the Lord’s wonderful—and to us, so familiar—words, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

He had never heard of such a thing. “Our God Cheunaisi does not give us everlasting life.” He said to himself, “I need to hear more about this God who loves us so much. But who can tell me about Him?”

He found no one in all of Tibet. He showed one of his friends what he had found, and the two would often

go to a cave to read this wonderful message about a God who loves mankind. Finally they decided to cross the border to find the missionary; however, they were discovered and sent back.

The young man then tried to find the missionary on his own by going in a different direction. Suddenly he came across brutal robbers on the road. They took all he had with him. However, he was able to quickly hide the little page in his possession. Through God’s protection they did not find it and let him continue on his way.

One warm day, he sat down on a rock to rest. Out of habit he took out the page of the Holy Scriptures and read the now beloved words. He suddenly noticed one of the dangerous Himalayan black bears coming straight for him. He had nothing with which to defend himself. In a panic, he looked around him. He saw a cave nearby and ran to hide. The bear ran straight at him from above the cave. The bear had almost reached him when he ran against a stone with such force that it landed in front of the cave and blocked the entrance from the bear. The young man was safe. He felt the great God Who so loved the world had protected him. He waited in the cave for many hours before the bear finally left. The young man then continued on his way and did not have to search much longer before he found the missionary. She led him to the Lord and he completely surrendered his life to God. She thankfully acknowledged her work for the Lord had not been in vain.

What is Sanctification?

Maybe you know the doctrine, but have you experienced it?

In Hebrews 13:12 we read, “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”

Sanctification became possible through Christ’s blood and death on the cross. How could someone still say that the sanctification of believers is only a minor issue? Could something be minor having been made possible through the greatest sacrifice ever? If we become aware of this fact, then it should be our desire to achieve the blessings of sanctification, not just for the sake of these blessings, but because God said that experiencing sanctification is according to His will: “For this is the will of God, your sanctification” (1 Thessalonians 4:3). If we resist sanctification after having been born again, are we not disobeying God?

Who can be sanctified?

In John 17, we read that Jesus prayed for the sanctification of His disciples. Further, we read in Ephesians 5:25-27, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

From these Scripture passages, it is clear that sanctification occurs in the hearts of saved and born-again individuals. Those who are not saved, cannot be sanctified, because they still live in sin.

How are we sanctified?

Paul answers this question in Romans 15:16: “...that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” We become sanctified when the Holy Spirit comes into

our heart and wholly and completely possesses it after we have been justified through faith. All our committed sins are forgiven when we are justified. Once we are sanctified, our heart is cleansed from our inherited sin, often described as our tendency to do evil.

Paul directed his question to the believers in Ephesus: “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2). They responded, saying that they had not heard about the Holy Spirit. Verse 6 of Acts 19 then states, “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them.” These people were believers, as they had been born again, but they had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

The same question Paul asked the believers in Ephesus is applicable to all born-again people today. If you have become a born-again child of God, you should ask yourself, “Have I received the Holy Spirit? Am I completely sanctified?”

God will give His children the Holy Spirit if they earnestly seek Him. Jesus states in Luke 11:13, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” And in John 14:16-17, Jesus said to His disciples, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Through our belief in God and His Word, we receive the Holy Spirit in our heart as a constant Comforter. However, do not forget that the Holy Spirit will not come into a heart that has not been cleansed from all sins. Sanctification is only for those who are born again, not for sinners. Only the redeemed can make a total commitment to God, which is necessary for sanctification.

What are the results of sanctification?

In Acts 1:8, we read how Jesus said to His disciples, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me”

First, we are given the Holy Spirit that we can then be witnesses for Jesus. Then in John 6:13, we are told that the Spirit will lead us in all truth.

E. A. M.

The Inheritance of the Faithful

The Bible teaches us that every Christian not only has the privilege to be born of God’s Spirit, but also to be baptized by the Holy Spirit. Christ did not merely die to forgive all our sins, but also to purify our hearts and fill them with the Holy Spirit.

In His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus especially prays that not only His current disciples, but all who believe in Him might be sanctified. He also tells them, “It is to your advantage that I go away [to the Father]; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7). Shortly before His ascension, He commanded them to remain in Jerusalem until they had received the power of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. In faith, the disciples waited. “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. . . . And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:1, 4a).

From this point on, the disciples’ lives changed. The truths that had previously been concealed from them now became clear. Faint and hesitant hearts were filled with new strength. Their sermons were filled with heavenly dynamite. They boldly testified. The audience had to acknowledge that something extraordinary had occurred. The kingdom of God had arrived with power and God’s people had received their inheritance, which the prophets had foretold (see Joel 3).

However, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit did not end with the Day of Pentecost, as seen in the example of Saul of Tarsus. When Jesus encountered him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), Saul asked Him, “Lord, what do You want

me to do?” After three days, Ananias came to him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit” (v.17). We also find other examples where Christians had obtained this experience after Pentecost.

Best of all, the coming of the Spirit extends to our day, for Peter, led by the Holy Spirit, specifically explains, “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:39).

The power received at the first Pentecost identified the first Christians, wherever they went and whatever they did. This power caused the outside world to refer to them as, “These who have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). Wherever they went, something happened.

Thanks be to God that receiving the Holy Spirit in His fullness is not intended for just a few people; no, it is the privilege of all Christ’s followers. Unfortunately, Paul’s exhortation to the Ephesians, “Be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18) is generally not heeded in today’s age. Therefore much worldliness abounds today, not just in the heart of man, but also in the churches. It also explains why many people do not find true joy in serving God, why their lives are so unfruitful and why there are so many “children in Christ” instead of “men and women in Christ.”

If you are a Christian, then reach out for this gift of the Holy Spirit. All you need is an honest desire, an unconditional surrender to God’s will, and a simple faith. Surrender yourself completely to Him and He will give all to you.

Rest for the Soul

“Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it” (Hebrews 4:1).

Here, the rest that is available to us is referred to as “His rest.” Isaiah, who prophetically already saw the day of the Lord, cried out, “His resting place shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:10b). Jesus promises rest and refreshment for all who labor and are heavy laden.

For whom is this rest? It is for God’s people, as it is clearly told to us in Hebrews 4:9: “There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.” This complete rest for the soul is not yet achieved when we are born again; rather, it is a work of grace that is experienced after conversion.

The children of Israel could not pass through the Red Sea and the Jordan River at the same time. They had fled from slavery in Egypt, but we read in Deuteronomy 12:9, “For as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you.” In the tenth verse we read, “But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit,” He will give “rest.” This is a shadow of what God’s children will experience under the New Covenant.

While Jesus still walked with His disciples on earth, He Himself promised them a higher level of God’s grace than they had up to that point. He prayed, “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:14-17). In John 14:16-17, Jesus said, “I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Paul wrote, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may

prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2). (Read also 2 Corinthians 5:1 and 1 Thessalonians 3:10,13.)

This rest which the apostle is referring to is for God’s people, not for sinners. God’s people, or the children of God, include only those who have passed from spiritual death to a new life in Christ. These people have been born again and are now in the family of God. Thus they in spirit have become a child of God. And everyone who has received forgiveness of sins has also received rest for the soul, and is free from guilt and condemnation. But the rest that the apostle is referring to is a special rest for God’s people. This rest surpasses the grace of forgiveness.

This rest for the soul is called sanctification. Everyone who has received forgiveness of their sins but has not been sanctified should heed the following words: “Therefore, . . . let us go on to perfection” (Hebrews 6:1a). “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

In Hebrews 4:11, the apostle said, “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest.” When the apostle speaks of being “diligent,” it is not meant that we can reach this inner rest by our own works. No one can ever earn the grace of salvation, because a gift of grace cannot be obtained through works, but only by the grace of God. Sanctification, or rest for the soul, is a gift of God. The diligence that is expected of us is meant as follows: “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:11).

Furthermore, man must give up everything which does not glorify God and serve for salvation of lost souls. Following Jesus requires self-denial.

Attaining rest for the soul requires a complete surrender (see Romans 12:1). When you have laid your all on God’s altar, then believe that this work of grace will take place in the power of the blood of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The only obstacle that can prevent the soul from entering into this rest after surrendering all to God is a lack of faith. “To whom did He swear that they would

not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Hebrews 3:18-19). But “we who have believed do enter that rest” (Hebrews 4:3).

The altar sanctifies the gift. You are the gift. And what touches the altar is holy. When we have surrendered our all on the altar, we are sanctified, provided that we believe. Then we will receive true rest for the soul.

Turn on the Power!

Have you ever longed for more spiritual power in your life? Do you wish to have more power to stand against temptations or to effectively share your faith in Jesus Christ with others?

J. B. Phillips, an outstanding Bible scholar, once said, “The great difference that has come to exist between the Christianity of the early days and that of today [is that, to] us it has become a performance, a keeping of rules, while to the men of those days it was, plainly, an invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether.” This is what people long for today. They long for something real; they don’t just want talk, but reality.

Some people call our time the “plastic era.” It is a time in which much is synthetic. Unfortunately, this applies to most people, as well as their products. How can we avoid this in our daily lives?

Imagine a brand new factory with the most modern, technically advanced equipment, with everything necessary to manufacture the highest quality products. Then a visitor comes who is amazed by the beauty of the machines but asks himself why these machines aren’t running and why the whole thing isn’t working. “Maybe the machines need to be oiled,” he thinks.—But even with that, nothing begins to work.

A little later, another visitor comes who praises the arrangement of the machines and the floor plan. But nothing is running. “I could imagine,” he says, “that everything would change if nice pictures were hung on the walls.”—But again, nothing happens. The machines are still not running. Nothing can be produced.

Further suggestions are made: stained glass windows are installed, an organ is set up, even a church steeple is erected. But without success. The machinery does not move.

Eventually, someone asks, “Has someone actually turned on the power?”—“Turned on the power? Yes, that is exactly it!”—Finally the main power switch is serviced, and the machines begin to work. Soon the materials are formed, processed, and the factory begins working. “How simple!” you say. And you are completely right.

What electrical power is to a factory is what the Holy Spirit is in the life of a child of God. Just like a factory needs a power source in order to work, so we need the Holy Spirit in order to live as Christians.

Are you already plugged into the power source? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Can God accomplish His work through you? What a fundamental difference it made back then at Pentecost after the Holy Spirit was received! The doubting, stumbling, and unsure followers were changed into radiant, eloquent preachers of the Gospel.

Dwight L. Moody once said, “I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and self-seeking and every thing that is contrary to God’s law, the Holy Ghost will come and fill every corner of our hearts; but if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and self-seeking and pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God.”

We must first be emptied out before we can be filled up again. Our life is perhaps so powerless because we never gave up this secret room of our heart, which means we’ve never relinquished it to God’s Spirit to reign unrestricted.

Why don’t you turn on the power in your spiritual life today? When you grant the Holy Spirit full reign of your life, you will also experience His exceeding power and leading.

G. S.

Going on to Perfection

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection . . .” (Hebrews 6:1).

It is exceedingly wonderful to become a child of God. But in all things, a new beginning must be followed by progress. Therefore, if you have recently been born again, set forth decisively on the journey to your heavenly home, to the next milestone, to Christian perfection.

After the tribe of Israel had moved out of Egypt and had gone through the Red Sea, they were to travel without delay to the location determined for them. Had they been obedient to the Lord, they could have reached their destination in a relatively short time.

After we have left the service of sin and have been born again, we, too, should and must press toward the goal. Paul shows us in Ephesians 6 what we need for this battle of faith. He exhorts the Ephesians, who were born again, to take hold of the whole armor of God. Without it, they would not have been able to fulfill their life’s purpose and produce the fruit of the Spirit.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, Paul prays for the believers to be sanctified completely so they may be preserved blameless. The apostle desires sanctification through and through, or else they cannot overcome. Whom the Lord has justified, He also wants to sanctify so that he may be conformed to the image of the Son of God. The spirit of man is kept sanctified and blameless when the Spirit of God resides and rules in him, when all of his feelings and desires are submissive to God and the Holy Spirit.

John highlights this biblical truth from another perspective. In 1 John 2, he calls those who are newly born again “children.” Those who have progressed a little further he calls “young men,” and those who are “completely sanctified,” as Paul expresses it, are called “fathers in Christ.”

Similar to the natural man who is able to fulfill his life’s purpose when he grows up to be a man, so can a

child of God only properly fight the good fight of faith when he has reached “manhood in Christ.” This does not mean a person can “grow into” sanctification. No, it is a distinct experience like salvation.

In Hebrews 6:1, the apostle mentions repentance, faith, baptism, and the like as the beginnings of Christian life. But then we must go on to perfection.

A Christian should not forget this, like perhaps a student who only learns the alphabet but neglects to learn to read or like a builder who lays a foundation but then forgets to continue building. The knowledge of the alphabet is absolutely necessary to learn a language. And no building can be erected without a foundation. The knowledge of the alphabet is of no use to the student if he does not proceed with learning; similarly, the foundation is of no use to the builder if he does not complete the building. Likewise, there can be no mention of true Christianity or of going on to perfection without having experienced the new birth. A new Christian should not sit back and do nothing but must apply himself to go on to perfection.

Sanctification has roots in a true conversion to God. Without genuine conversion, a person cannot become sanctified. A person who has recently been born again is similar to a newborn baby. It must be nourished, cared for, and guarded. The spiritual application is similar. A new born-again Christian must also be cared for and nourished so he can grow and progress in his spiritual life. It will not take him long to realize that he needs more. Then it is important that the newly born-again are instructed to apply themselves to go on to perfection, to consecrate themselves wholly to the Lord.

G. J. Keller

A Church of Power

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Christ, Who came to this earth to build His Church, died on the cross and was then laid in a grave from which He arose triumphantly on the third day. After this, He spent forty days with His disciples and gave them many instructions, after which He ascended to heaven. On the Mount of Olives, He gave His disciples the last instructions.

At this last gathering, Jesus clearly explained that for them to be able to carry out the tasks He had entrusted to them, they needed the power of the Holy Spirit. He therefore instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until they were filled with this power.

Without this power from above, they would not have been able to do anything. Today the church is also powerless without this source. Yes, it cannot survive in this sin-filled world without it. Because it is often missing in our time, many worldly things have found their way into some churches, so that victory over the forces of evil cannot be celebrated. Christ, however, has provided His Church with the necessary strength to defend its place on earth and to carry out its duties successfully. With this power, the Church can withstand all onslaughts of Satan's forces and continue growing.

After the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, Peter testified, “But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16). He then reiterated the promise of the prophet who said that God would pour out the Holy Spirit on all those who are ready to receive Him.

When the first believers received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they understood they had received what God had promised them through the prophet Joel. It was apparent they were now filled with this indwelling power. We only need to remember Peter, who had lacked the courage to acknowledge to a maid that he knew Jesus. Now, however, he came forward in the strength of the

Holy Spirit and not only testified about Jesus, but also preached a resolute sermon that entered into all hearts. All who saw and heard Peter understood that something had happened to him. He had experienced a major personal change. Observe Peter now standing before the foes of Jesus with courage and without fear. Listen how he tells them of their sins and explains to them that Jesus, whom they had crucified, certainly arose from the dead. Only through Christ and in His name could they be cleansed of their sins and be saved. Peter also emphasized that what he and the other disciples had received had also been promised to the Church: namely that the church of God would triumph over all evil. What an influence this Spirit-empowered message had on the listeners! They began to ask, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the first church was united in heart and soul. This power not only works outwardly but also internally. It removes everything that may result in disunity and divisions or that could hold back, hinder, or damage the church.

What power the prayers of the believers had in the early church after they had been filled with the Holy Spirit! “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken . . .” (Acts 4:31). All this was a sign of the power which had filled them.

Today, we also need the power of the Holy Spirit. A preacher may be a gifted speaker, but if the power from on high is not in him, there would be no purpose to his ministry, and it would be unsuccessful before God. There are many gifted preachers in various denominations, yet sin keeps increasing. However, if the preacher and church have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and power from above, then the enemy will be defeated, souls will be saved from their sins, and God's work will progress.

The Gift of the Spirit

If we study the New Testament, we discover the Holy Spirit was given a more important place in the early church than He is given in modern Christianity. Many who call themselves Christians pay little attention to the Holy Spirit, and for many He has almost no significance.

The Holy Spirit is the Gift of Christ

“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear” (Acts 2:33). The gift of the Spirit was a promise of the Father. John spoke of sending the Holy Spirit, when he said, “But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (John 7:39). The apostle directly connects the sending of the Holy Spirit with the work of Christ. Christ Himself was anointed with the Holy Spirit, but it was only after He fulfilled His work of salvation and returned to heaven that He was able to pour the Spirit on others. The pouring out of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost was clear proof that God acknowledged and accepted Christ’s work of redemption. We too, should not lose sight of this fact. On the cross of Golgotha, Jesus bought the gift of the Spirit.

The Gift of the Spirit is Real

An intense study of the New Testament, particularly the book of Acts, convinces us that the gift of the Holy Spirit for the first disciples was indeed real. In our effort to explain the experiences of the New Testament, we often lose the meaning of this. During the time of Acts, the experience of being baptized by the Spirit was so important and life altering that it could not have been confused with anything else. All those who received the Spirit were

certain of this reality. This is still the case today. From a New Testament perspective, it is unthinkable to live a holy life without the Holy Spirit. Only if the Holy Spirit lives in the heart of man is it possible to live a holy life. Yes, the entire Christian life is a result of the Holy Spirit from beginning to end.

He is the Spirit of Truth

It is the work of the Spirit to reveal godly truths to us. When the disciples received the gift of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, they first started to value and understand the whole life of Jesus. The words of Jesus, which they had kept in their memory, became a living foundation for their faith, and the past became present reality for them. Now they saw the wonderful deeds of their Lord in a whole new light and understood many of those things that until that very hour had seemed dark and unexplainable. Jesus had once told His disciples that He still had much to tell them—things which they could not understand or bear. But they were not to remain in constant darkness, for the Spirit of truth would come and reveal these things to them.

The apostle Paul testified to the Corinthians, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). Yes, godly things must be oriented spiritually, otherwise a person can’t fully understand the character of Christ and His work. But, when we are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, then the Lord can correctly lead and guide us. The Holy Spirit is the right interpreter and revealer of godly truths.

He is the Spirit of Strength

The disciples received the promise of strength through the outpouring of the Spirit. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8), the Lord Himself said to them. This strength, given to them when they received the Holy Spirit, showed itself in different ways, through healings and other miracles. It was also revealed when they were especially equipped for specific acts of service. Their message gave evidence of the Spirit and Its power.

Every preacher of the gospel needs the power of the Spirit. It is not given through human ordination. Jesus told His first disciples to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father. Only after they received the Holy Spirit and were equipped with godly power were they to go out. For only then were they prepared to be witnesses for their Lord and Master. No one can give an effective testimony for Christ without being anointed and filled with the Spirit. If we want to have this anointing, then we must empty ourselves. Letting go of ourselves is necessary. If the power of Christ abides in us through the Spirit, then our simplest words can sound as trumpets from heaven to reach the deepest place in the human soul.

If only we would utilize the power of the Spirit! For only when we receive and use this power can we fulfill the greatest duties that are given to us to do. Dear reader, have you ever thought about how incredibly great the success of the first disciples was and what they were able to accomplish? Why were they so successful? They were equipped with the power from on high, with the power of the Holy Spirit.

A. Miller

I Have Agreed to Follow

*I have agreed to follow;
Your will, not mine, be done;
Withstanding lusts and also
Temptations, every one.
The cross of Christ has severed
My stubborn thoughts and will,
And now I have forever
Deep peace, so calm and still.*

*And in the sanctuary
I stand in awe and pray,
And songs of love will carry
My praise to God each day
For all that Christ has given
Me through His sacrifice.
O marvelous submission,
Through death eternal life.*

*I praise the Holy Spirit
For helping me to see
That by my Savior's merit,
The altar is for me.
My gratitude increases,
To live with Him is best,
And crucified with Jesus,
I've entered into rest.*



THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God's Fellow Workers

"For we are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

What a wonderful calling to be fellow workers with God! The thought of being a fellow worker with the Almighty and holy God, in order to serve Him in His great work of love, fills us with awe and reverence.

God's field of labor is great. Jesus commanded His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19a). In John 4:35, He says, "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest."

The whole world is the mission field for the children of God. Our Savior once compared this field with a vineyard. He said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner

who went out early in the morning to hire laborers in his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard." He did the same at the third, sixth, ninth, and eleventh hour (Matthew 20:1-6). Without doubt the Lord of the vineyard has also come to you and has invited you to work for Him.

Have you taken the time to look and see what there is for you to do in God's vineyard? There are many different things to do; nobody is unnecessary. For every child of God, there is much to be done. The Savior is very interested in actively involving you. However, that does not mean you should just go ahead and do whatever you think and

please; rather, it must harmonize with the Word and the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit will only bless the work through the Spirit.

Maybe you have your own ideas of how you would like to work for God and are only interested in doing certain things that please you. But such a manner of working would not be pleasing to God. Certainly you have already felt the Holy Spirit nudging you to do this or that. One should not disregard the urging of the Spirit. Fully submitting to the Spirit of God will keep us safe and help us to be obedient to His leading.

What is so wonderful about the Kingdom of God is that the Holy Spirit Himself administers the gifts as they are needed. Yes, the “one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills” (1 Corinthians 12:11). It is not done according to human will and understanding but according to the wise plan of God, who can see much further than we can. He places His fellow workers where He deems it best and gives them the necessary gifts to perform the work. As His helpers, are we willing to submit ourselves to His command? Or do we want to work on our own? If that is the case, God’s blessing cannot be upon us. May we learn to work together with God, according to His will, and not hide our light under a bushel (Mark 4:21). Let us remember that we are responsible for the talent that God has given us.

Every child of God is to work for the Master as long as it is day, as long as God gives us health and life. When our time on earth is up, nothing more can be done. In John 11:9 we read, “Are there not twelve hours in the day?” Which hour is it in your life? Are you still young? Are you in the first hour, still in your youth? Then good for you! You are still able to do much for the Lord. He bids you, “Go into My vineyard to work.” God willing, you still have the whole day ahead of you. Make good use of the time, for the hours fly by rapidly. Let the Holy Spirit equip you. Dear young Christians, God is especially calling you for His great work. Continue working for God’s kingdom and telling people of God’s great love. You have a special privilege if God is calling you in the first hour.

And you who are called in the third hour, you also have a great opportunity to serve the Lord. Hear what the landowner says: “You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you” (Matthew 20:4).

At the end of the day, at the eleventh hour, the Master comes one more time and sees some standing idle in the marketplace. To those he says, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” Does this question not

show you His amazement? How could they be standing here with nothing to do when He has so much work to be done in his vineyard? “Because no one has hired us,” they answered (Matthew 20:6). Is that your excuse? See, the Master is calling you too. Even though the day is almost gone, the Master does not wish you to stand there idle, but calls you to work and says, “You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive” (Matthew 20:7).

Yes, dear brother, dear sister, you who have come to the eleventh hour, for you there is still work to do. But go without delay, for soon your time will be done. Make haste so that you will not appear before the Lord empty-handed on that day. You, too, will receive your reward.

And then we read, “When evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner . . .” (Matthew 20:8-11).

The owner seems to have a different way of paying his servants than expected. But if we read his answer carefully, we can see that his logic is correct: “Did you not agree with me for a denarius?” (Matthew 20:13b) Does his response, “Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?” not point to a danger for us as well? (Matthew 20:15). We may be tempted to fall into the same trap.

What is the criteria according to which God rewards His children? Paul writes that “the love of Christ compels us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). Praise God that this is the secret which is known by all those who work for the Lord and do their duty out of love. This love was the stimulus for the apostle Paul in all of his trials, afflictions, battles, and temptations. Love made his labor pleasing to God and useful for those he was able to reach. To the elders in Ephesus, he said, “For three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31). Here we do not encounter the hard voice of the law but see the compassion of love that is moved to tears.

God’s fellow workers! How significant are these few words! They should cause us to stop and reflect deeply. May we conduct ourselves worthy of this calling. Remember, “Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy” (Psalm 126:5).

THE FATHER OF A PRODIGAL CHILD

By his example and love he had left such a strong impression on the son that he was not afraid to return to his father.

In Luke 15:11-24 Jesus tells the story that has become known as the story of the prodigal son. The Savior used parables He took out of everyday life that people could relate to. Today, many fathers can relate to this story from experience with their own prodigal son. Just like the father in this story, many parents experience a great deal of grief from the decisions their children make.

It can be easily understood that Jesus tried to show people the love of the heavenly Father, but in doing so He uses a story that is so common that all can relate to it and therefore understand the implication. In this story, we fail to find an answer for why this young man decided to leave home. Today there is a tendency to blame the wrongdoings of the children on the parents, the environment, or someone or something else.

In this narrative, we want to look at the father of the prodigal son and learn some valuable lessons from him.

1. He was approachable

We only obtain a little insight into this family from the account given by Jesus. There is no mention of a mother, so we may ask whether she had passed away and left the young boys behind with their father. Did the boy in the story lose a saintly mother at a young age and was he raised in part by a nanny or a maid? We don't know, but it could very well have been the case. We may conclude that the father was very involved in their upbringing. It was after all the duty of the father to teach his children about God and His commandments.

Also, there seem to be only two sons in the family because there is no mention of other children. By the standards of those days, it was a wealthy family, because there were servants in the household. So we can assume that these boys grew up not knowing any need. We could say this was a well-to-do middle-class family according to today's standards.

The youngest son must have dreamed of the world beyond his home and been enticed by what it had to offer. He was drawn to the glamor of the life in the world; it was pulling him away from home. And one day he approached his father with a request: he wanted his inheritance in advance. He asked for his portion of what would one day be his, but did not want to wait for his father to pass on. That is one characteristic of sin: it compels compulsiveness without considering the consequences.

This was painful for the father, and yet, even now, he wanted nothing but the best for his children. How devastating for a father to learn that his son, for whom he had good plans, wants to leave home. A certain father came home to find a note from his daughter saying she had run away and did not want to live at home anymore. That is devastating to a parent, but that didn't happen in this story. The boy gathered his things and went into the world, leaving behind a grieving father who loved him dearly. He was not a mean or inconsiderate dad.

How often this story has been repeated! The world offers so much but delivers so little! The joy and success in the pleasures of sin do not satisfy for long. Sadness, disappointments, frustration, and guilt are the result of this type of living. This young man was in pursuit of a romantic life full of happiness, but it was just a dream. Seeking the pleasures of life, he became a keeper of swine.

But even now his father was approachable; he was still a father with a heart full of love for his prodigal son.

2. The memories of the father were related to heaven

When the son reached bottom in his sorry state, he came to himself and thought of his father, and heaven. The prodigal decided to go to his father and say to him, "I have sinned against heaven and before you" (v. 18). The image of the godly father made him think of his guilt be-

fore the God of heaven. This father had had a godly influence on his son, who despite years of wretched living trusted him for forgiveness. He had been a father of integrity, setting an example of such magnitude before his sons that it made the prodigal think of heaven itself.

God would like to see every father be such an example to his children today that this impression of God would be engraved in their minds. Children should see the attributes of God in their father. The father of the prodigal son sets a high bar for us today.

3. He was a loving father

He demonstrated his love to his prodigal son in that he ran to meet him when the son approached home. It was not honorable for an aged man to run in that time, but this father did so because he loved his wayward son. He hugged and kissed him and welcomed him home. It was a day of joy and celebration. After being gone for a long time and wasting all his money, he was willing to be a servant if only he could live with his father.

The lack of a good fatherly example causes a lot of confusion in the life of a developing child. In telling this story, Jesus sets before every father an image of the kind of father he is to be. One who is approachable, who impresses children with a godly influence, and who loves them and shows it.

We can also draw encouragement from this narrative in seeing that the sincere effort to be a godly father finds its reward. After waiting a long time, the prodigal son returned and sought forgiveness without raising any blame against the father. May God bless every father who endeavors to set such an example before his children, and may He bring many a prodigal home to the family and to God.

Peter Ens
Toronto, ON

Road Signs

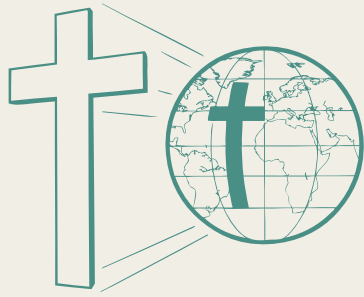
Dear Father, have you noticed how perceptive your son and daughter are? Their eyes are watching you carefully. Your actions, reactions, and decisions are consciously and unconsciously being registered. Like road signs along the way, which lead a traveler in the right direction, we both can be and must be examples that give correct orientation.

*Road signs are seen along the way
So that travelers will not go astray.
They were erected by helping hands
To help reach the destination planned.
If days are stormy or there is rain,
Or if the sun is shining again;
If it is winter or if it is spring,
They show the way despite anything.*

*Road signs to heaven we all ought to be,
Showing the way for all others to see.
All that are lost and are seeking direction,
Show them the road to the land of protection.
Traveling there with our sisters and brothers,
Let's be encouraging one to the other.*

*Road signs for others we only will be
If we are walking the path faithfully;
Not going off left nor veering off right,
But keeping eternity clearly in sight.
If we encounter much sunshine and gain,
Or if our heart must endure needless pain;
Let's keep on going as God gives us grace,
Inspiring each other to keep up the pace.*

Fritz Woike (1890-1962)



Radio Program Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs, Kitchener (ON)

Fathers Who Are a Blessing

In this age, we need fathers who live near to God.

Let us look at God's blessings in the lives of our fathers. There have always been fathers who were a blessing. In order to be a blessing, they first had to experience this blessing in their personal lives. One cannot give something unless one has experienced it first. We see this right from the beginning, when God said to Abraham, "I will bless you and you shall be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).

Ernst Modersohn wrote a book entitled *People Through Whom I Have Been Blessed*. For the fourth edition of the book, his son wrote the following about his father: "In this book, Father allowed a whole stream of men and women to pass through, by whom he'd been particularly blessed. Our father often said, 'It doesn't matter if life is going well, and if we accumulate treasures. Much more important is that we become a blessing to others.'" This is a remarkable thought even for us!

A young man was asked, "What would you like to be?" The surprising reply was, "A blessing!" This answer was unexpected but very nice. On a sunny fall day, walking past an orchard, a man reported how suddenly a woman called out to him, "What a blessing hangs on these fruit trees." She saw the blessing of a rich harvest.

The Bible speaks of far greater blessings than we have just looked at. In spite of being rejected and disappointed by men, God continues to bless us in many ways. Jesus said, "He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew

5:45). There is no other God who can give us the sun and the rain.

In Genesis 49:25-26, Jacob said to his son Joseph, "By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you, with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath . . . The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors." Joseph was reminded of his father's blessings which had also been with his grandfather, Isaac, and his great-grandfather, Abraham. These fathers lived a life of faith and had a true relationship with God. The blessings that flowed from them influenced the lives of their sons.

We need fathers like this today! Fathers full of faith who live their lives dedicated to God. Many of these fathers "live" although they have died. Their life, their deeds, and the fruit of their work still speak to us. It pays to follow their steps and good example. These fathers had found the way to God, the source of all blessings.

I had to think of a father who became a Christian in the prime of his life. He recognized the sin in his life and felt himself drawn to God. During this time, he heard about revival services being held in his area. He and his wife attended and experienced forgiveness and peace with God. Their Christian walk impressed their grown children, and one by one each was saved. With great joy, the father made this firm resolution, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).



We know how many marriages and families are going through adversity and hardships. If fathers and mothers would open themselves up to the healing power of God, many of these issues would be rectified immediately. Unfortunately, many fathers are not willing. There are many mothers and children who are anxiously waiting for this

healing to take place in their families.

On the blood-stained letter in the envelope, the dying son wrote his unbelieving father his last wish: “Father, I wish to meet you in heaven!”

A young soldier came home from the war. He needed to give a letter to the parents of his fallen comrade. His comrade had been hit by shrapnel in such a way that he could no longer speak. Using hand signals, he made it clear that he wanted to write something. On the blood-stained letter in the envelope, the dying son wrote his unbelieving father his last wish: “Father, I wish to meet you in heaven!” The father was deeply moved. To his dying breath, the son had waited for his father to have a change of heart. This statement from his son turned the father to God. We need “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). And good for those who do not ignore this blessing!

healing to take place in their families.

A young soldier came home from the war. He needed to give a letter to the parents of his fallen comrade. His comrade had been hit by shrapnel in such a way that he could no longer speak.

Using hand signals,

A father was deeply concerned. His son had gotten lazy in school and was receiving bad report cards. One day, the son went to his father’s little office after school and put a letter from his teacher on the desk. In the evening, the father asked his son to come to his office. Fearfully, the boy stood before him. The father raised his head and said, “You will be a nail in my coffin! And now go!” Deeply upset, the boy climbed up the stairs to his room and threw himself on his bed in tears. What would follow now? His anxious thoughts tormented him.

Suddenly, during the night, he heard the office door open. Slowly, his father came up the stairs. The boy did not know what to do. In the darkness, his father stood in front of his bed and asked softly, “Are you sleeping?” The poor boy burst into tears. Gently, his father placed his hand on his head and said, “Everything is now in the light, my son.” Then he leaned over and gave him a kiss. The boy was stunned. He knew, “My father has forgiven me!” He was able to make a new start. They never again spoke of what had happened. Several months later, he brought home his best report card. The forgiveness of his father led him to find forgiveness from God. He found forgiveness and became a useful instrument in God’s hands.

I remember a lot of fathers whose lives were a blessing. I also think of my father. He lived a faith-filled life with God and also directed me onto this path. I will never forget that about him.

Friedrich Krebs

Finding God in Science

(Part 2)

DECIDING WHAT TO DO WITH THE EVIDENCE

Despite the evidence they deny Him. Many people can't find God in science for the same reason that a bank robber can't find a policeman. They do the best to explain Him away so that they do not need to be responsible to Him.

Robert Jastrow was an American astronomer and planetary physicist, as well as a leading NASA scientist. He professed to be an “agnostic, and not a believer,” but in his book *The Enchanted Loom: Mind in the Universe* he wrote, “Scientists have no proof that life was not the result of an act of creation, but they are driven by the nature of their profession to seek explanations for the origin of life that lie within the boundaries of natural law. . . . There is a kind of religion in science. It is the religion of a person who believes there is order and harmony in the Universe. . . . This religious faith of the scientist is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning under conditions in which the known laws of physics are not valid, and as a product of forces or circumstances we cannot discover. When that happens, the scientist has lost control. If he really examined the implications, he would be traumatized.”¹

In another book *God and the Astronomers*, he stated, “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountain of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”² This is not the quotation of a preacher, this was a scientist, astronomer, and physicist decorated with five major awards! They can't deny the evidence of the universe, but do their utmost to deny Him.

In Britain, there was an ad on a city bus that stated “There's probably no god. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.” Why didn't they say, “There is no God?” According to the book “Reasonable Perspectives on

Religion,” “Dawkins and others involved in the famous London bus poster saga had to agree to change the poster from “There is no God” to “There's probably no god,” because those Christians would object to false advertising.”³ They aren't sure enough to make an exclusive statement.

Thankfully, many scientists are now acknowledging that there is overwhelming evidence of a creator. In reality it is the same condition the Apostle Paul describes in Romans 1:18-23 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

NOT BELIEVING IS NOT A MATTER OF EVIDENCE

Some will never believe regardless of the evidence they see. Over 2000 years ago, Jesus walked on earth, did miracles right in front of the eyes of the people, brought dead people back to life, healed the sick, and rose from the grave Himself. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb of Jesus told the religious leaders all that had happened when Jesus arose from the tomb, but their reaction in spite of all the evidence was simply to bribe them to tell a lie. All that was still not enough evidence to bring them to repentance!

We need to remember that for some people we will never be able to present sufficient evidence of

God for them to believe. And, we sometimes think we are the only generation that is plagued with people who cling to science as their reason for not believing. Interestingly, the apostle Paul had the same issues: “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:21-24).

They want signs, wisdom—proof! Even if we have solid evidence for God in science, it doesn’t mean we will win everyone. So the first and primary reason to have solid answers is that *our* faith doesn’t begin to fail when we are bombarded with these questions. Even if we do not win them over, at least they will not win us over.

God is alive! There is proof! Take it by faith based on the evidence in science!

John Reimer, Barrhead (CA)

1 Robert Jastrow, *The Enchanted Loom: Mind in the Universe*, (1981), S. 19

2 *God And The Astronomers* (1978), W. W. Norton & Company, 2000 2nd edition

3 *Reasonable Perspectives on Religion* – by Richard Curtis

Where is God?

During his career, Professor Werner Gitt, Ph.D., was a successful scientist. After his graduation, he led the federal institute of Information technology Physical – Technical (PTB) in Braunschweig from 1971 to 2002. In 1978, he was promoted to director and professor of the PTB. After his conversion, he held many presentations, in which he dedicated much time to address biblical statements with scientific questions. In his book *Questions – that are repeatedly asked* Werner Gitt addressed some of these questions. One of them is: Where is God? His answer is the following:

“We humans try to localize God. This is why we find so much on this in the heathen concepts of gods in ancient times as well as in neo-paganism. The Greeks believed that their gods lived on the mountain Olympus while the Teutons placed their gods in Valhalla. The French mathematician and astronomer P. Laplace (1749 – 1827) said: ‘I have searched the whole of space, but I didn’t find God anywhere.’ Soviet cosmonauts commented in a similar vein: ‘I didn’t meet God during my flight’ (Nikolajew, 1962, in Wostok III). Scripturally, all of these statements are fundamentally wrong because God is out-

side our dimensions. He Who has created space cannot be part of our dimensions. What is more, He permeates every part of space, He is omnipresent. Paul explains this to the heathen Athenians on the Areopagus: ‘For in him [God] we live and move and have our being’ (Acts 17:28). The psalmist, too, knows this to be a reality when he confesses: ‘You discern my going out and my lying down; you hem me in – you have laid your hand upon me’ (Psalm 139:3,5 [NIV 1990]). This, too, shows how completely God surrounds and permeates our world. The mathematical idea of extra-dimensional space (our space has three dimensions) can assist with the question of where God is. n -dimensional space is only a subset of $(n+1)$ -dimensional space. Similarly, four-dimensional space, for example, cannot be understood by three-dimensional space, but it still permeates it completely. Scripture illustrates this when it says in 1 Kings 8:27 [NIV 1990]: ‘But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you.’”¹

¹ Werner Gitt: *Questions I have Always Wanted to Ask* - CLV Bielefeld, QG 2: Where is God? Pg. 15-16

The Power of the Holy Spirit

D.L. Moody's baptism with the Holy Spirit testifies to Jesus' ability to empower people for greater service.

In 1871, Dwight L. Moody had apparent great success as an evangelist. His tabernacle drew the largest congregations in Chicago. But according to Moody's own estimate of those years, he was "a great hustler" and this work was being done largely in the energy of the flesh.

Two humble women, Auntie Cook and Mrs. Snow, used to attend these meetings and sit on the front row. Moody could not help seeing that they were praying during most of his services. Finally he spoke to the women about it.

"Yes," they admitted, "we have been praying for you."

"Why me? Why not for the unsaved?" the evangelist retorted, a bit nettled.

"Because you need the power of the Spirit," was their answer.

After some weeks of this Mr. Moody invited the women to his office to talk about it. "You spoke of power for service" [that results from the baptism with the Spirit]. He prodded them: "I thought I had it. I wish you would tell me what you mean."

So Mrs. Snow and Auntie Cook told Moody what they knew about the baptism of the Holy Spirit [i.e., the Spirit coming 'upon' a person to empower him or her for greater service]. Then the three Christians prayed together – and the women left.

From that hour "there came a great hunger in my soul," Moody was to say later. "I really felt that I did not want to live if I could not have this power for service."

One late autumn day in 1871, D.L. Moody was in New York (on his way to England) walking up Wall Street. Suddenly, in the midst of the bustling crowds, his prayer was answered: the power of God fell on him so overwhelmingly that he knew he must get off the street.

Spotting a house he recognized, Moody knocked on the door and asked if he might have a room by himself for a few hours. Alone there, such joy came upon him that "at last he had to ask God to withhold His hand, lest he die on the spot from very joy."

He went on to England for what was to be the first of many evangelistic campaigns there. People thronged to North London to hear him.

"The sermons were not different," Moody summarized. "I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted."¹

The evangelist went on to live another 28 years, and "to reduce the population of hell by a million souls."

¹Catherine Marshall, *The Helper*. Avon Books, 1978. 25-26. (Slightly edited by PJN) holyspiritempowers.com/2013/02/d-l-moody/

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Not in Secret

Of course I knew that compartment in my father's desk very well: the cubbyhole with the beautiful stamps. What I would have given to make those precious things my own! All my senses were wrapped around this thought. At noon, my father rested. I wanted to use this time to examine the stamps more closely. I can still see some triangular stamps before me that especially caught my eye.

I didn't dare to just take them. But what if I would secretly exchange them? Indeed, I placed a few of my own stamps in the compartment and took what didn't belong to me. I no longer remember how often I repeated this with other stamps.

One thing I do know, from that moment on, my peace disappeared. I was no longer happy; I was always afraid of being found out!

I attempted to get rid of this restlessness by replacing the stamps with ones of double and triple the value. But stolen remained stolen, and secret remained secret! But my young heart cried for peace. But it was all in vain. It came to the point where I couldn't even look at my stamp collection. Every stamp reminded me: "Secretly stolen! God sees it!"—One day I gave away my collection. But that didn't help

either.—In my heart, it always sounded: "You must tell your father! Otherwise you will never have peace!" Oh, how hard that was!

Then I read the verse: "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Again and again I resisted this voice. Many times, I stood at my father's door with the firm decision: "Now you'll tell him!" But at the last second, I didn't do it. I turned away from his door.

Finally, after a few years, I did it. My father was sitting in the spot where I had once secretly been. Then I told him. Believe me, it was hard!

My father looked at me with a face of deepest joy and gratitude. Then he gave me a kiss and lovingly said: "My dear son, I forgive you. But how much easier would the years have been if you had dared to confess sooner!"

Therefore, do not wait! What you have secretly done, you can tell the Lord. You can come to Him and confess your sins. That is repentance, and repentance brings joy! Then He will tell you what to do with the stolen things.

Come, go to the door! Dare to make the decision, and do not stop halfway!

E. M.

An Experience on the Mountaintop

A restless night lay behind me when I woke up exhausted that morning. I was sick and lonely—plagued by an incredible loneliness. For more than forty years I had walked hand in hand with my life partner, whose companionship and understanding had enriched my life. He had been gone from my side already for several months and I knew that he would never again be with me in this lifetime.

Youth and midlife had rolled past me; but I had hardly cared until recently. But now the way before me seemed dark and cold. With an anxious heart, I cried out, “My God, the way is steep!” In that moment, God spoke to me. I did not see a vision nor did I hear a voice, but I recognized, by the burning in my soul, that it was the Spirit of God that spoke to me. Obediently, I laid aside my daily chores and duties and listened to what He had to say to me.

“What you are going through is not new or rare. It is something completely natural that many people will experience sooner or later. Your face is essentially structured the same as the faces of all people. Yet in the whole world, there is not another face that is identical to yours. It is your face. The same goes for all your temptations and trials. They are yours and you feel them painfully. You are only experiencing your portion of the general fate of all mankind. You have experienced your childhood, your youth, your maturity and your age. You received many blessings and rich comfort and a longer life than average. Like all the others, now you must, grow old. Look around you!”

A lot of old people live in my neighborhood. Some of them are very poor, others are sick and discouraged, and many do not have a clear knowledge of God and His grace. I would not have wanted to trade with their lot. In humility, I bowed my head.

The voice of God continued, “Let my grace be sufficient in your age. I need witnesses who continue to carry

my grace and love like a bright light into old age. I have left you an account of two people who walked the last mile of their lives without fear. There was Moses, who was married to the people of Israel in his heart. He carried this people in his heart through many long, troublesome years. But he had to climb Mount Nebo alone before he could finish what he had started. I knew it would be better that a different leader would step into the lead over the people. On Mount Nebo, Moses looked back at all that he had suffered and accomplished. In his heart he had a burning desire to experience its completion. But he finally relinquished it and was ready to die in a foreign grave. I was with him and gave him grace and strength to the end.

“Then there was Aaron, the first high priest of Israel. He, too, was old and reached the goal of his life. He had to climb his mountain, but not alone. His successor was with him. On the cliff of that mountain, before the entire nation, he removed his high-priestly robes and put them on the new priest of God, and died. His life’s account is not as pure as that of Moses, but his death was victorious.

“Your life has not been as dramatic as that of these two men, but the end can be just as victorious and fearless. You must suffer and accept the inner pain like Jesus, your Savior, before you can fruitfully testify for Him. I have not promised to relieve you of the cares of the world, but my grace and strength are assured. With My presence, I will lead and comfort you.”

My kitchen had become a heavenly place. I, who had felt so forsaken and dispensable, had received a heavenly Guest. I had been entrusted with a special task: Through my example, I was to demonstrate until the end of my days that God’s grace is enough to make and keep even an old person satisfied, pleasant, and happy.

M. H.

You Died with Christ

“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3).

Most of us do not wish to think about dying or being dead. Spiritually though, it is something each one of us needs to experience. We can only truly enjoy peace in God if we have died to sin, to self, and to the world. Our life cannot be hidden with Christ in God if we have not died to self.

You may ask, “What does it really mean to die to oneself?” Although we are led by God, it does not mean that our personality is lost, and we no longer possess our own will. Dying to self does not make us into a machine. We still maintain our own will, but we now want what God wants. We want to live to God’s glory. We are happy when God is glorified, even if it costs us some suffering.

When we have died to self, we do not worry about our reputation or our honor. We live for God to the best of

our ability. We do not try to be humble, generous, or good just to be seen or acknowledged by others. Having died to self means that we are glad about that which glorifies God the most. It can be to the glory of God, and often is, when people speak evil about us and revile us. It will give us pause to examine ourselves.

Some do not feel hurt if the world talks about them, but if fellow Christians say something against them, they are immediately offended. When their walk with God is called into question, they become very uncomfortable. They continually think about it, and it lays like a heavy burden on their minds. Do they fear that “self” will need humbling? Or do they fear that God will be dishonored? Being humbled is only as painful as the extent to which “self” is great and alive. The dead do not waste any time thinking about what someone will do or not do to them. Therefore, let us be “crucified with Christ”!

Special Services 2017

Pentecost Fest in Herford, Germany

JUNE 3-5, 2017

Fest in Aylmer, Ontario

JULY 1-2, 2017

Youth Bible Days in Tübingen, Germany

JULY 27 - AUG 1, 2017

Camp Meeting in Blaubeuren, Germany

AUGUST 20-27, 2017

Convention in Swartz Creek, Michigan

SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2017

Fest in Edmonton, Alberta

OCTOBER 7-9, 2017

The Lord's Prayer

by Gerhard Mielke - Part 3: Hallowed be Your Name

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever. Amen.*

Matthew 6:9-13

In the last edition of *Foundation of Faith* we reflected on the deep significance of the first two words in the Lord's Prayer. As Jesus continues to teach this prayer He says, "Hallowed be thy name." The same Greek word translated "hallowed" here is translated as "sanctified" in other places. It is not wrong to translate: "Sanctified be thy name." How can we sanctify or hallow the name of the Father?

The Dictionary of the Interlinear Greek-English New Testament gives several meanings for the Greek word used here. The word means to purify, to sanctify; to set apart from common use; to consecrate; to regard with reverence; and to cleanse. It is clear that not all of these nuances apply here. Sanctification means to "make holy." In some contexts sanctify implies regeneration, being born again. In other contexts it is entire sanctification or being filled with the Holy Spirit that is meant. Sanctification can also mean to "make holy" as to "set

apart" for a special purpose. "And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God, they laid in heaps" (2 Chronicles 31:6). Here things were set apart for a special reason and consecrated to the Lord. Also God "blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:3). The day was special. It was set apart.

The word hallow means to hold in reverence. The Oxford dictionary defines it to mean honor. Hallow means to grant high or the utmost respect. Instead of saying, "Hallowed be thy name," we could say "Your name be highly honored," or "Your name be respected," or "Your name be revered, kept holy"

The opposite of honoring God's name is to dishonor it. If we misuse the name of God we bring guilt upon ourselves. In Exodus 20:7 we read "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." Let us give the name of God the highest respect. Let us not say "Gee Whiz," which is a derivative of, and misusing the name of Jesus. Let us not even say "Cripes" because it imitates those who misuse the name of Christ. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). That is how to honor God.

How else can we hallow the name of God, the Father? His name deserves the highest respect. When the Jewish people read the Old Testament and encounter the name of the Lord, YHWH, they do not pronounce this name



out of respect. They say Adonai instead. Adonai means lord or master. They will not say the name of God, YHWH, which is translated as The LORD in our English Bibles. The Jewish people do this out of great reverence. They are careful not to misuse the name of the Lord, so careful that they refrain from using it at all, even in reading.

We hallow God's name by praying to Him. We can honor Him by praising, singing, and worshiping Him. If only the birds with the best voices sang, how quiet the woods would be! When we testify, or pray publicly, in that way we honor, hallow God's name. Don't leave public prayer in church for those who have polished words. Even the prayer of a child is a great blessing and honors God. The great King of Israel, Solomon, hallowed God in prayer as he said, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27).

It is important to note that if we honor God with our lips, and do not live a holy life, then we dishonor Him. Walking the walk is more important than the talk. It is not those who only say Lord, Lord, that hallow His name, but those who do His will. Jesus says: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). What we do speaks louder than our words. A good reputation may take years to establish but can be ruined by one negative incident. It can easily be ruined but is hard to establish.

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:12).

If you are at work or at school and make a fool of yourself or act in a shameful or angry way, Christ's name suffers. We represent it. We should do so with diligence. God says, "Be holy for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). Let us not forget that whosoever names the name of Christ is

It is important to note that if we honor God with our lips, and do not live a holy life, then we dishonor Him.

Walking the walk is more important than the talk.

to abstain from all unrighteousness, depart from iniquity (2 Tim. 2:19). That is hallowing the Lord's name in action.

Moses honored God's name when he prayed for the people of Israel when God wanted to destroy them and make Moses a great name. Moses pleaded with God for the lives of the people and reminded God that the Egyptians would hear it and say God did not have the power to bring the people into the promised land (Numbers 14:13-17). Moses cared more about God's reputation among the heathen than he cared about his own name. Similarly, David cared more about God's honor when he went to fight against Goliath than for his own life. In like manner, whatever we do in word or deed let us do it to the glory of God (Col. 3:17).

We honor God by our faith. To honor God is to believe Him, to believe Him is to obey Him, and to obey Him is to give Him the glory. Let not only our lips pray, "Hallowed be Thy Name," but let our lives be a physical prayer of obedience to our heavenly Father.

Lonely, But Still not Alone

*Yes, lonely but still not alone,
For hours I sit here in this home;
And when my heart in heaviness
Feels overwhelmed with pain and stress,*

*I look outside to nature fair
And see my Savior's footprint there.
I hear His voice so gently say,
"Be faithful, child, do not dismay!*

*There's still a bit of work to do;
You'll rest with Me when you are through."
Some days are long, some days are short;
God hears your prayers and knows your hurt.*

*In intercession pray for them
For whom Christ died, still lost in sin;
To free their chains is His desire,
To save their souls from death and fire.*

*Lord, to earth You came our souls to save;
You gained the victory o'er the grave;
And though the days and years go by,
Still You alone can justify.*

*O precious Savior, ever near,
You wipe away my many tears.
Like Mary, who sat at Your feet,
I, too, can feel Your presence sweet.*

Leo Krause