

Lesson 13 – The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. – Rom. 5:5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. – Gal. 5:22-23

1. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Believers

- a. Places people into the Body of Christ – 1 Cor. 12:13
- b. Gives believers assurance of salvation – Rom. 8:15-16
- c. Indwells all believers – Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19
- d. Seals until the Day of Redemption – Eph. 1:13
 - i. The seal shows His ownership – like a seal with the impression of a king’s signet ring. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of the King of Kings!
 - ii. The seal cannot be broken... “until the Day of Redemption.”
 - iii. It guarantees the fact that our salvation is eternal.
 1. Some good Christians believe that a Christian can lose his or her salvation if they sin. The seal of the Holy Spirit is God’s absolute 100% Lifetime Guarantee that, once we are saved, we can never lose our salvation. We’ll cover this more in a future lesson.
 2. No one else has the power of authority to break God’s seal
 3. God promised He won’t break the seal
 4. The seal cannot be broken!
 - iv. The Holy Spirit is God’s “earnest money” – His deposit to us to guarantee that we are His and we will go to Heaven – 2 Cor. 5:5
- e. Fills obedient believers – Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18
 - i. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. “Filled” (Gr. *PleneroO*) means to be under control of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. When we are under control of the Holy Spirit, we have supernatural power to serve God and win souls to Christ – Acts 1:8
 - iv. We are given boldness for soul winning – Acts 4:31
 - v. More about this in the next lesson.
- f. Produces fruit in the believer’s life – Gal. 5:22-23
 - i. One fruit – with 9 attributes
 - ii. The fruit is the way He changes our lives when we are in tune with Him day by day.
 - iii. A fruitful life is a life of balanced virtue
 1. A person with a lot of joy but no love is not displaying Fruit.
 2. A person with a lot of love but no self-control is not displaying Fruit
 - iv. Fruit grows...
 1. It appears quickly in the life of a new believer – 2 Cor. 5:17
 2. It matures over time

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3. Characteristics of a life that is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When you are growing in the Lord, these things will manifest themselves in your life:
4. The work of the Holy Spirit is to build character in our lives. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is part of that character.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

- a. **Love** (v. 22) (*agape*) – The highest level of self-sacrificing love.
 - i. Definition of “love”
 - ii. 1 Cor. 13:4-7
- b. **Joy** (v. 22) – A life characterized by a deep-seated joy – even in the midst of difficulties.
 - i. This is not happiness that comes from a time of pleasure or good fortune.
 - ii. It is not dependent on circumstances.
 - iii. It comes from God regardless of circumstances.
 - iv. It comes from the deep conviction that our God is also the God of our circumstances, and that He will let nothing bad come into our lives that isn’t ultimately for our good.
- c. **Peace** (v. 22) – A deep-seated peace that comes from realizing that God is in control, even when your life isn’t (or doesn’t seem to be).
 - i. Think of the worst thing that happened to you since you became a Christian.
 - ii. Did you experience peace through that trial?
 - iii. The Christian life is very practical
 1. We go through trials like everybody else
 2. God gives us strength and peace to go through those trials. The world doesn’t have this.
 3. He uses those trials to develop us and strengthen us.
- d. **Longsuffering** (v. 22) –
 - i. The quality of a person who is in a position to take revenge on another, but who refrains from doing so.
 - ii. Has to do with patience with people who are doing you wrong.
- e. **Kindness (KJV gentleness)** - χρηστότης (*chrēstótēs*)
 - i. Goodness in dealing with others
 - ii. A gentle disposition
 - iii. The Greek word also means something that is useful or profitable in that which is good. It is sometimes used with other Greek words for philanthropy.
- f. **Goodness** - ἀγαθωσύνη (*agathōsúnē*)
 - i. Goodness of disposition, character and virtue

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- ii. A higher quality of goodness than the world – outside the fellowship of God’s people – can know.
 - iii. The word translated *goodness* does not appear in any other ancient literature, except for the LXX and the New Testament.
 - iv. A new word had to be created to describe this level of goodness, because God’s fruit-growing is far above what the world can do or understand.
 - v. How many Christians do you know whose lives are distinguishable from unbelievers because of their goodness? How about your life?
- g. Faithfulness (KJV Faith)**
- i. Absolute conviction of belief in the truth of the Bible and the Christian faith.
 - ii. Can also be translated “faith,” as having faith in other people without being gullible. – 1 Cor. 13:7
- h. Gentleness (KJV Meekness) πραότης (*praótēs*;)**
- i. Mildness, forbearance
 - ii. Acceptance of God’s dealings with us
 - iii. According to Aristotle, this word is that virtue that stands between two extremes, uncontrolled and unjustified anger, and not becoming angry at all no matter what takes place around you.
- i. Self-Control (KJV Temperance)**
- i. Contentedness, a feeling of sufficiency with all that God has given us.
 - ii. God gives us power over self-control. This is a major transformation in the lives of some people when they come to Christ. Especially people with moral or addictive problems
 - 1. Alcoholics
 - 2. Drug addicts
 - 3. Adulterers
- g. Empowers the preaching of the Word of God.
- i. For the preacher – 1 Cor. 2:4-5
 - ii. For the hearers – Acts 6:10
- h. Guides His people – Acts 15:28
- i. Comforts us – John 14:16
- j. Communes with believers – 2 Cor. 13:14
- k. Prays for us – Rom. 8:26-27
- i. When we don’t know what to pray for or how to pray it, He takes over and prays from within us.
 - ii. This is not praying in tongues, as some people teach. Tongues (other languages) can be uttered. The Holy Spirit is praying in groans that cannot be uttered. These are communications with God the Father that cannot be uttered with the human mouth or heard with human ears.
- l. Teaches believers – 1 John 2:20, 27
- m. Gives spiritual gifts – Rom. 12:3-7; 1 Cor. 12 (whole chapter)