

Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Believer

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

- A. A charismatic movement is spreading across the country.
- B. Topic: the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Believer.
 - 1. This is background not a theological treatise.
 - 2. Technical terms are particularly challenging with this topic.

II. The main things.

- A. We were regenerated by the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5)
- B. We were baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion.
- C. At the time of conversion we were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which is not to say that every believer is controlled or filled with the Spirit. This is a guarantee of salvation. (Romans 8:9)
- D. There is a filling of the Spirit subsequent to salvation. This experience is multiple.

III. What it means to be filled by the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

- A. It means to be controlled by the Spirit.
- B. Every believer is not controlled by the Spirit because there are certain moral hindrances that need to be removed. We are not looking for more of Him - He is a Person whom we have all of. The Spirit is looking for more of us.

IV. How to be filled with the Spirit.

- A. Grieve not the Holy Spirit - confess all known sin. (Ephesians 4)
 - 1. This is a responsibility.
 - 2. We are not to talk behind people's back, have ill will towards others, etc.
- B. Quench not the Spirit - do not disobey or yield to the Holy Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
 - 1. This is simply obedience to the known will of God.

2. We are to respond appropriately to God.

C. Walk in the Spirit so as not to fulfill the lust of the flesh - walk in dependence upon the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16)

1. This is a matter of faith and trust.

2. God is at work in us whether we feel it or not. It is simply a fact. (Philippians 2:13)

3. We have a responsibility of yielding to the Spirit, but God is at work.

D. Additional notes.

1. You are responsible for what God makes clear to you. We trust in God's grace, mercy and forgiveness - we trust in Him.

2. Just respond when God clearly speaks to you.

3. You cannot live your life by what you do not know. You can only live your life by what you do know.

4. Simply count on what God is doing.

Application questions

1. How does the filling of the Spirit relate to the salvation experience of the believer?

2. What is the filling of the Spirit?

3. What must one do to be in proper relationship with the Spirit? Explain.
