

The Holy Spirit and Prayer

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 14:12-17.

B. The secret of the Christian is that another is living his life in him.

II. The character of a Christian's work is borrowed activity.

A. We are so dazzled by the promise of God that we fail to heed the condition.

B. Jesus promises that we will do greater works than He did.

1. Many doubt this.

2. Jesus is not saying that the sincere Christian of today will be able to do what He did in the first century--He is not contrasting our labors with His labors then.

3. All the fullness of God became available to men when Jesus went to the Father.

4. Jesus' ministry among men was a failure, but through His provision, His disciples' fruit would remain.

5. The condition is continually believing in Jesus.

III. The basis of a Christian's prayer is borrowed authority.

A. The believer must ask in Jesus' name.

B. This is not just a magical formula.

C. In Jesus' name means Christ's authority based on His character.

D. Whatever is needed will be given.

IV. The secret of a Christian's living is borrowed deity.

A. The one who comes is no one less than God Himself, the Holy Spirit.

B. This one will be another counselor.

C. He will bring truth.

D. In one's experience, it is possible that the Spirit only dwells with you even though in reality He dwells in you. This is the explanation for the prevailing weakness in Christianity.

Application questions:

1. How should knowing that one can bear greater fruit in ministry than Jesus move the church?

2. What does it mean that prayer is based off borrowed authority?

3. Why must spiritual growth depend upon “borrowed deity?” Explain.
