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THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE

THE THIRD STAGE – CHRIST LIVING IN ME Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

We who are under the New Testament dispensation enjoy the double blessings of the Holy Spirit, namely, the aspect of His being power to us, and the aspect of His being our life and nature.... He continues... the former aspect and adds another aspect. In the Old Testament there was only the outward, but in the New Testament there are both the outward and the inward. Therefore, under the dispensation of the New Testament, we can not only rely upon the Holy Spirit as the outward power to perform the work committed to us by God, but through the Holy Spirit as life within, we can mingle with God as one.

2514 Truesdale Drive, Regina, SK November 11, 2017

Scripture Reading

Psalms 51:11 Do not cast me from Your presence, / And do not take the Spirit of Your holiness away from me..

[In the Old Testament,] the Spirit of God came upon man to move him to work for God, yet in principle at that time the Spirit of God had not entered into man nor dwelt in man and mingled with man. Since the Spirit of God merely came upon man,... He may be taken away.

Judges 14:6 And the Spirit of Jehovah rushed upon him [Samson], and he tore it apart as one might tear a kid apart with his bare hands...

In the Old Testament, we see a number who possessed the power of God, yet had nothing whatever of God's nature. Samson is the best example. He had the supernatural power of God upon him, but at the same time he did not have the nature of God in him at all. Here we have a strong man whose power was beyond measure, yet whose nature was totally incompatible with God. It is rather difficult to find anyone in the Old Testament who was stronger than Samson; as far as power is concerned, Samson was undoubtedly a superman. But with regard to his nature and life, Samson was the poorest among all those used by God in the Old Testament.

Acts 16:7 And when they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

However, the principle of the work of the Holy Spirit is entirely different in the New Testament. At this time, when He descends to work on man, He not only descends upon man to be power to man, but He dwells within man and is mingled with man to be his life, thereby imparting God's nature into man. This means that now He comes in His Person to dwell in man... It is interesting that there is not a single sentence in the entire Old Testament which says that man ought to obey the Spirit of God. But in the New Testament, we are told that the Holy Spirit takes the control over us.

Hymn #1 (278)

1 The Spirit of life is within us today, Who's likened to water our thirst to allay; Of Him we may drink and be filled thus with Him, Until as a river He flows from within.

2 The Spirit of pow'r comes upon us today, Who's likened to clothing ourselves to array; In Him we are baptized, with Him we are dressed, For service equipping with power possessed.

3 The Spirit of life is as breath glorious,
As spirit of life it is breathed into us;
The Spirit of pow'r doth the wind typify,
Which bloweth upon us with pow'r from on high.

4 Into His disciples the risen Lord breathed, The Spirit of life thus to them He bequeathed; Th' ascended Lord poured at the Pentecost hour Upon His disciples the Spirit of pow'r.

5 The Spirit of life is within as the life, The Spirit of power is giv'n for this life; As blowing of wind- brings the fresh air to breathe, The Spirit of power to life doth bequeath.

6 These are not two spirits apart and afar, But of the one Spirit the two functions are, To clothe us with God and to fill us within, That we may be thoroughly mingled with Him.

7 Lord, fill with Thy Spirit of life every part, That we may grow up in Thy life as Thou art; And clothe us without with Thy Spirit of pow'r Thy will to fulfill in Thy service each hour.