

“The Holy Spirit Transforms You” Weekly Recap

This week, we looked at the transformation promised to us which the Holy Spirit brings. To begin, Chris read a passage we just looked at in our Isaiah bible class study:

Ephesians 2:17-22:

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.(Pneuma)

We next looked to Paul’ letter to Timothy for what the Spirit of God gives to us.

II Tim 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

POWER.

Dallas Willard: “Bible deism”- Father, Son, Scripture(?). Deism is the belief that God set the cosmos in motion and leaves it alone.

“Practical atheism” - We as Christians sometimes live as if God does not exist. We look to ourselves as the source of all the power we need to do good. This damages our lives and our witness.

John Yoder: “Christian ethics calls for behavior that is impossible **except by the miracles of the Holy Spirit.**”

Romans 8:11:

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

“The Spirit brings life and new creation, not ghostlike escape from the world. “The Spirit does not draw the soul away from the body, nor does it make the soul hasten towards heaven, leaving this earth behind. It places the whole earthly and bodily person in the **daybreak colors** of the new earth.” ([Leonard Allen, *Poured Out*](#))

Flamingos: We looked at a couple of pictures of Flamingos. One was a chick, grey and white. The other was an adult, vibrantly pink. Flamingos are pink because of the carotenoids they consume, not because of their DNA. They are literally “filled with the color of pink”. We are to be like this in a spiritual sense. We should have the “**daybreak colors**” of Jesus because we are filled with the Spirit of God.

Why do we shrink back?

“To be possessed by the Holy Spirit is surely a frightening prospect. The temptation to domesticate the Spirit is almost irresistible.”

—Stanley Hauerwas

LOVE.

II Tim 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:5).

Titus 3:5-6

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Romans 8:11: ***The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.***

Henri Nouwen: “You are God’s Beloved!”

TEACHING

II Tim 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

1 Cor. 2:12

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Jeremiah 31:33-35

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Ezekiel 36:26-28

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

What is this teaching about?

As Jesus said of the Spirit, ***“he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, . . . He will glorify me”*** (John 16:13–14)

James Packer: the Spirit is “the hidden floodlight shining on the Savior.”

FUTURE

The Spirit is a down payment or guarantee (2 Cor. 1:21–22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14). God has given us “his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

II Corinthians 1:20-22

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and **put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit**, guaranteeing what is to come.

“The Spirit is given to make God’s future real in the present. That is the first, and perhaps most important, point to grasp about the work of this strange personal power.”

—N. T. Wright

The Spirit brings “a provisional yet visible and concrete anticipation” of God’s new age, God’s future. The Spirit empowers the church to embody—in its mixed and very imperfect way—this new world coming. In the power of the Spirit, the church becomes a prototype, an early version, a signpost, of God’s end-time community. It is, in fact, the place where heaven and earth are beginning to overlap. The church still groans in the midst of the old creation (Rom. 8:20), but through the Spirit’s presence experiences foretastes and signs of the new creation. —Allen, Leonard

LIVING WATER

John 7:37-38

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Transformation ties to Water. Water, like breath, goes completely through us.

Revelation 22:1-2:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (300 year old song)

22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

For Further Reading:

[***Poured Out.* Leonard Allen.**](#) My remarks relied heavily on the work of this ACU professor and author. The quotes I used were from this work.

[***Open to the Spirit.* Scot McKnight.**](#) Both Jared and I leaned on this book for some additional insight.

[***Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God.* Gordon Fee.**](#) Although Fee is not coming from a similar background to our tradition, his insights are very helpful. He is a well-respected scholar in mainstream New Testament thought.