

He Works In You

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Searcy, Arkansas
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Scripture Reading

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:1-11 ESV).

We tend to pride ourselves on being self-reliant.
But even Jesus wasn't self-reliant.

Jesus full of the Spirit.

Luke 4:1: Full of the Spirit

Mt 4:1: led by the Spirit

And Jesus said you and I should not be. In fact, we can't be. Apart from me, you can do nothing. (Jn 15:5)

So what about the future?

Jn 14—send a helper. AND THEN

Jesus: I will come to you (Jn 14:18): I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Promise to all of us: (1) we all have been plunged in spirit of God. But
(2) Spirit of God = Spirit of Christ

The Spirit within you is the Spirit of Christ

Spirit of Christ:

Philippians 1:19

1 Pet 1:11

End with this one: Romans 8:9 (see 9-11)

Blessings and promises that come with this: presence of God, also means holy place. And now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus! Rom 8:1—you are as saved as you will ever be.

Yet Command: Be filled with the Spirit

Command: “be filled with the Spirit.”

Eph 5:18: Don’t get drunk on wine; instead, be filled with the Spirit.

How does this make any sense? HAVE the spirit, but be filled with the spirit. James 1—receive implanted word. Turns out, can implant organs, but body must receive them.

Romans 8: called to live a new way

We are called to fulfill the righteous deeds of the law (Rom 8:4; made possible by the Spirit). NOT: since we have the Spirit, we don’t need rules. Truth: the only way any rules can be obeyed is by the power of the Spirit of God. (Paul says the law was holy, righteous and good; the problem was me!

Rom 8:4—living according to dictates of the spirit, not the flesh

Put mind on the spirit (cooperation)

If by the Spirit put to death misdeeds of body, you will live

Led by spirit of God are sons of God

False view: who cares how you live. True view: how you live says what you believe.

But still true: I don’t have what it takes. I can’t do it on my own.

Alternative is self-reliance, and this is wrong

Gal 3—begun in the spirit, trying to finish in the flesh

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

So God promises to be at work IN YOU

Let’s establish that God who lives within you is at WORK in you

Philippians 1:6: And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:13: For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Think about this: God doing the work God has called to be done. Reminds me of Jesus being full of the Spirit, led by the Spirit, to accomplish the task.

The problem with self-reliance is that we forget WE are the problem! (Movie: A Beautiful mind. I am the problem!)

So the command: you have the spirit, but be filled with the spirit: Let God have his way with you!

It’s not me...it’s Beethoven

Arturo Toscanini was the conductor of the NBC Philharmonic. One evening, he was conducting them in practice for a performance of a Beethoven symphony. In one of their rehearsals, Toscanini did a particularly masterful job. When the piece was over, the entire orchestra—who had never played that well—got up off their feet to applaud him. Red-faced, Toscanini motioned for all of them to sit down. And with his voice breaking, he looked at them and said “you don’t

understand. It wasn't me. It was Beethoven. That's what lifted you up and swept you up.”

A sign of growth for us to recognize that we need God to work within us

AA:

- (1) We admit that we are powerless over our problem—that our lives have become unmanageable.
- (2) We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
- (3) We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God

Later: Be entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character

Humbly ask God to remove our shortcoming

Later: Prayer for the power to carry out God's will