

The Power and Priority of the Person of the Holy Spirit in Revival

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Summary: Jesus' final word to the church was "Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches." It has been noted that revival is essentially obedience to the Holy Spirit. For this kind of work to occur we must know, understand, and respond to the truth of the Holy Spirit as clearly taught in the new covenant. This session will address some of the common points of confusion in our modern pneumatology and propose a pathway for truly New Testament work of renewal.

Introduction:

Words create worlds...

Surveys **by Lifeway Research** demonstrated that 56 percent of respondents believe the Holy Spirit is a force rather than a person. In fact, even some of our language from the pulpit, and the lyrics of the songs we sing, seem to indicate that the Holy Spirit is some mystical energy we summon rather than the indwelling person of the Trinity to whom we are to submit. We need a recovery of an accurate understanding of the person of the Holy Spirit.

Francis Chan wrote that the Holy Spirit was "the forgotten God." Today, He has become "the misrepresented God."

"The biblical doctrine of the Holy Spirit suffers today from three extremes: abuse, neglect, and distortion." **Robert Lightner**

"When it comes to the Holy Spirit, churches are either cemeteries or insane asylums." **Jim Cymbala**

"If we review the history of the Church, we notice how many important truths, clearly revealed in Scripture, have been allowed to lie dormant for centuries, unknown and unappreciated except by a few isolated Christians, until it pleased God to enlighten the Church by chosen witnesses, and to bestow on His children the knowledge of hidden and forgotten treasures. . . For how long a period, even after the Reformation, was the doctrine of the Holy Ghost and His work in conversion, and His indwelling in the believer, almost unknown!" **Adolph Saphir, A Jewish Presbyterian Missionary (1831–1891)**

The Importance of Living According the New Covenant

See Ezek. 36:26-27; Jer. 31:31-34, 2 Corinthians 3:18-4:7

John 14:17 - Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 16:7 - "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you"

Luke 22:20 - And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

"The right way for followers of Jesus Christ to read the Old Testament is in the light of all that was revealed in and through Christ and that now lies before us in the New Testament." **J.I. Packer**

*“Instead of understanding the full benefits of the new covenant in Christ, most in the church live in a no-man’s land between Jesus and Moses.” **Jim Cymbala***

*“The new covenant comes with ‘batteries included’... The Spirit internalizes the new covenant so that the people of God are motivated to do God’s will.” **Carl B. Hoch***

*“The whole dispensation of the Spirit, the whole economy of grace in Christ Jesus, the whole of our spiritual life, the whole of the health and growth and strength of the church, has been laid down and provided for, and secured in the new covenant.” **Andrew Murray***

The Teaching of the New Covenant Regarding the Holy Spirit

His Purpose:

John 16:14 - He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

*“A sure sign of the Holy Spirit’s working is that Christ is magnified, not people . . . The Spirit is here to accomplish God’s purposes, not ours.” **Francis Chan***

*“The purpose of the Holy Spirit in the church is to glorify Jesus Christ, and He cannot be glorified while competing with celebrities and personalities.” **A.W. Tozer***

His Personhood:

- He is intelligent and has an intellect. (1 Cor. 2:10-11); He has feelings (Eph. 4:30); He has a will (1 Cor. 12:11)
- In the upper room, Jesus spoke repeatedly of the Holy Spirit in personal terms (“He”)

His Power:

*“To everyone who honestly desires to know that he has the Spirit and to know Him in his person as a personal possession and teacher, we say: Study the teaching of the word in regard to the Spirit. Be not content with the teaching of the church or of men about the Spirit but go to the word. Be determined to accept nothing but what the word teaches, but also to accept heartily all that it teaches” **Andrew Murray***

*“Within you! Within you! . . . God created man’s heart for His dwelling . . . the kingdom of God is within you. It is within we must look for the fulfillment of the new covenant. . . . The Spirit of Christ Himself is to be within us as the power of our life.” **Andrew Murray***

- *John 14:20 – In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I **IN** you.*
- *John 14:17 – Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be **IN** you.*
- *Romans 5:5 – And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured **INTO our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

- *Romans 8:9–11 – 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 8:15–16 – For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, **but you have received the Spirit** of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness **with our spirit** that we are children of God.*
- *Romans 8:23 – And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan **INWARDLY** as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*
- *1 Corinthians 3:16 – Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells **IN** you?*
- *1 Corinthians 6:19 – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit **WITHIN** you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,*
- *1 Corinthians 12:6 – And there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all **IN** everyone.*
- *2 Corinthians 1:22 – And who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit **IN** our hearts as a guarantee.*
- *2 Corinthians 3:3 – And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but **on tablets of human hearts**.*
- *2 Corinthians 4:6–7 – For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone **IN** our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God **IN** the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure **IN** jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*
- *2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is **IN** you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*
- *Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives **IN** me.*
- *Galatians 4:6 – And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son **INTO** our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”*
- *Ephesians 3:16 – That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit **IN your inner being**.*
- *Ephesians 3:20 – Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work **WITHIN** us.*
- *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.*
- *Colossians 1:27 – “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ **IN** you, the hope of glory.”*

- 2 Timothy 1:14 – By the Holy Spirit who dwells **WITHIN** us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
- Hebrews 13:21 – Equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working **IN** us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
- James 4:5 – Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell **IN** us”?
- 1 John 3:24 – Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God **IN** him. And by this we know that he abides **IN** us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.
- 1 John 4:4 – Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is **IN** you is greater than he who is in the world.

*“If we think of the Holy Spirit as so many do as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, ‘How can I get more of the Holy Spirit,’ but if we think of Him in the biblical way as a Divine Person, our thought will rather be, ‘How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?’ The conception of the Holy Spirit as a divine influence or power that we are somehow to get a hold of and use, leads to self-exaltation and self-sufficiency. One who so thinks of the Holy Spirit and who at the same time imagines that he has received the Holy Spirit will almost inevitably be full of spiritual pride and strut about as if he belonged to some superior order of Christians.” **R.A. Torrey***

The Teaching of the New Covenant Regarding Revival

A riveting realization and a reset of understanding...

*“It may be argued that any attempt to define revival is pointless for the word itself is not scriptural and . . . ‘may not be wisely chosen.’ But rightly or wrongly, it was chosen and its sense was commonly recognized over a long period of time.” Yet Murray did go to on to describe this work for which we pray as “an extraordinary communication of the Spirit of God, a superabundance of the Spirit’s operations, an enlargement of his manifest power.” **Iain Murray***

*“The truth is that revival is really the Reviver in action, and He came two thousand years ago at Pentecost. Revival is not so much a vertical outpouring from heaven (for the Reviver is already here in His temple, the bodies of the redeemed) as it is a horizontal outmoving of the Reviver through these temples into the world. It is a horizontal rather than a vertical movement.” **Norman Grubb** (Continuous Revival)*

Grubb describes the reviving work of the Spirit so clearly. He notes that that all Christian relationships are both vertical and horizontal. He proposes that revival incorporates continued two- way brokenness. Vertically, we must be careful to keep “the roof off between ourselves and God through repentance and faith.” Horizontally, we must also let the walls come down between our- selves and others. Our walls of pride, self-esteem, and self-respect must be leveled by transparent confession of broken relation- ships, harbored sin, and pretending to be better than we are.

Our Essential Focus as New Covenant Believers Regarding Revival

*“Revival in essence is obedience to the Holy Spirit.” **Norman Grubb***

Multiple Choice: Jesus seven-fold command to every church:

- Become better leaders
- Build big churches
- Pray for revival
- Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches

What does it mean to “hear”?

A simple proposal: _____ and the _____

Praying people supporting praying pastors leading praying churches for supernatural gospel impact!

While we are all praying for the “fruits” of revival (and for a variety of reasons) we must commit ourselves to the “roots” of revival. You don’t have fruits without roots.

*“I have been very deeply impressed with one thought. It is that our prayer for the mighty working of the Holy Spirit through us and around us can only be powerfully answered as His **indwelling in** every believer is more clearly acknowledged and lived out. We have the Holy Spirit **within us**; Only he who is faithful in the lesser will receive the greater. As we first yield ourselves to be led by the Spirit, to confess His presence **in** us; as believers rise to realize and accept His guidance in their daily lives, God will entrust to us larger measures of His mighty working. If we give ourselves entirely into His power, as our life, ruling **within** us, He will give Himself to us, take more complete possession of us, and work through us...It is as **an indwelling life** that the Holy Spirit must be known. In a living, adoring faith, the **indwelling** must be accepted and treasured until it becomes part of the consciousness of the new man: **The Holy Spirit possesses me.**” **Andrew Murray***

*“Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing; we are as ships without wind, or chariots without steeds; like branches without sap, we are withered; like coals without fire, we are useless; as an offering without the sacrificial flame, we are unaccepted.” **Charles Spurgeon***

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Source material for many of these quotes can be found at: <https://www.strategicrenewal.com/spiritual-inspiration-part-one/> and <https://www.strategicrenewal.com/spiritual-inspiration-part-two/>

A much more complete understanding of this material can be found at www.transformingpresencebook.com