

Ch. 3 “Relying On The Holy Spirit’s Power In Us”

The Holy Spirit Purifies Us

The Greek work “dunamis” is used in the New Testament to describe the Holy Spirit. We get the English work “dynamite” from it. How do you think the Holy Spirit is like dynamite?

Acts 2:1-4 – Peter wrote: “... They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (languages) as the Spirit enabled them.” Why fire?

Isaiah 1:25 – Jerusalem (all of Judah) has been an unfaithful wife to the Lord. By following idols and foreign gods she has become a harlot in a spiritual sense. Isaiah wrote in approx. 740 B.C.: “I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities.”

Dross- a mass of solid impurities floating on a molten metal or dispersed in the metal, such as in wrought iron. It forms on the surface of low-melting-point metals such as tin, lead, zinc or aluminum or alloys by oxidation of the metal. Something regarded as useless, rubbish.

What is God referring to when He refers to our dross?

Isaiah 1:31 – “The mighty man will become tinder and his work a spark; both will burn together, with no one to quench the fire.” What does this scripture say to you? Why is his work a spark?

Isaiah 26:11 – “O Lord, your hand is lifted high, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame; let the fire reserved for your enemies consume them.” What is this fire used for?

“The Holy Spirit burns sin from us, and He cleanses the fleshly nature so we no longer desire to sin.” Have you had this experience through the Holy Spirit? Do you recognize the Holy Spirit when you are tempted to sin?

The Holy Spirit Convicts Us

“Before we can be cleansed of our wrongdoing, we must first be convinced that we have sinned.”

1 Cor. 3:16-17 – Paul wrote: “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

Would you consider destroying a church? If not, then consider your body a sacred place indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. You have no right to yourself anymore. You are a possession of God. Can you think of yourself in this way?

“The Holy Spirit will not allow anything that is not holy, pure, and righteous to coexist with Him in His temple.”

Would you want your mother-in-law to live with you? Are there things that you live with that offend the Holy Spirit?

“The Holy Spirit continually seeks to convict us of our sin until we confess it, repent it, and are cleansed of it.”

1. Can you be sensitive to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
2. Can you face your sin?
3. Can you present your sin to God with a pure and humble heart?
4. Are you prepared for the Lord to use you as He desires?

The Holy Spirit Strengthens Us

Eph. 3: 16 – Paul wrote: “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

We are weak creatures in faith. We struggle in staying obedient to God and we fail in our efforts to be pure and humble and to do God’s will in our lives. How can we conquer this weakness that is inherent in our human fabric?

Phil. 4:12-13 – Paul wrote from prison in c. 61 - “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

“The Spirit of Christ is the same Holy Spirit who is working in our lives. We can do all things that God commands us to do. We can live a quality of life that is the same as that lived by Christ. We can live a life free of sin and bold in speech and action because we are empowered by the same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus.”

Have you considered that as Jesus is the model of our lives, we can live like Him? How can we do this?

James 4:7 – James, the brother of Jesus wrote: “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” What is James telling us to first do, then what to do, and then what will happen?

The Holy Spirit Equips Us For Ministry

“The Holy Spirit indwells us so we might be His witnesses and do His work on this earth.”

Acts 1:8 – Jesus said: **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

God wants us to be a part of His work on earth during our short lives. But we can do nothing without the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Has the Holy Spirit laid on your heart a ministry for you to pursue? Have you sought Him to?