

THE HOLY GHOST, *The Power of Godliness*

The mystery of godliness is God's purpose to manifest Himself in flesh (1 Tim 3.16). Christ fulfilled that purpose, fully revealing God bodily (Col 2.9). But it did not end there. He was the Firstborn of a new creation, a new man who also would reveal God in flesh. But how? If the mystery of godliness is God in human flesh, what is the **power** of godliness?

Called unto godliness, but, How to live godly?

We are called unto holiness (1 Th 4.7).

But how can we overcome the power of sin in the flesh warring against the desire to live by the law of God? Where can we find the power to live a godly life?

- Ro 7.18-24 **to will** is present...but how **to perform**...I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil that I would not, that I do ... I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind ... who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
- Gal 5.17 the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh ... so that **ye cannot** do the things that **ye would**

The Answer: The Power of Godliness

Clearly some **do** live godly in Christ Jesus (2 Tim 3.12), so it is possible. But **how?**

- 2 Tim 3.5 There is a **power** of godliness, i.e. to enable godly living.
- 2 P 1.3 That divine power gives us **all things** that pertain unto godliness.

Where do we find that power? What is it? The Holy Spirit.

The Sanctification of the Spirit

It is only by the Spirit that we may be holy. He is the power of sanctification. Our own efforts will fall short. He is not just the Holy Spirit, He is the Spirit of holiness (Ro 1.4). Holiness is the very essence of His nature.

- 2 Th 2.13 chosen to salvation through **sanctification of the Spirit**
- 1 P 1.2 elect through **sanctification of the Spirit**

By the power of the Spirit we can,

- Ro 8.13 **put to death the deeds of the body**
- 1 Cor 6.11 be **washed** and **sanctified**
- 1 P 1.22 **purify our souls** in obeying the Truth unto unfeigned love

Indeed, the Spirit is the source of every aspect of the Christian life. In fact, He **is** the Christian life.

- Prayer Eph 6.18 Praying always in the Spirit
- Bible reading Eph 1.17 Spirit of wisdom and revelation
- Witnessing Acts 1.8 Power of the Holy Ghost to be witnesses
- Fellowship Eph 4.3 The unity of the Spirit
 Phil 2.1 Fellowship of the Spirit
- Worship Jn 4.23, Phil 3.3 Worship in the Spirit
- Praise Eph 5.18-19 Filled with the Spirit, singing and making melody

The Nature of Sanctification: Partakers of the Divine Nature

What exactly **is** sanctification?

- It is far more than good, moral living, or a list of commendable characteristics.
- The nature and scope of Biblical holiness is breath-taking. It is far more than moral living. It is nothing less than God Himself.

When Peter said, *Be ye holy as I am holy* (1 P I.16), he meant far more than to be holy **because** He is holy. He meant to be holy **to the extent that** He is holy.

To see how this is possible, let us look more fully at the nature of sanctification and its connection to the Holy Spirit, the power of godliness. In particular, how,

- To be renewed by the Spirit is to be renewed after the divine image.
- To walk in the Spirit is to walk in Christ and to mirror Christ.
- To partake of the Spirit is to partake of the divine nature.

(We shall look separately at how, by partaking of the Spirit, we both experience and become a foretaste of heaven.)

The Renewing of the Holy Ghost

One aspect of the sanctification of the Spirit which brings out its fuller meaning is the renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Our own efforts and attempts to be like Christ, however sincere, will fall short. We need the renewing of the Spirit to impart His very life to us.

Not only are we **born** of the Spirit (Jn 3.5), we are being continually **renewed** by Him:

- 2 Cor 4.16 though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is **renewed day by day**
- Ti 3.5 the renewing **of the Holy Ghost**

What is this renewing? Not a refreshing or a reviving but a progressive impartation of the Spirit and life of Jesus.

What is its ultimate goal? To fully and totally transform us into the image of Christ.

- Col 3.10-11 put on the new man, which is **renewed ... after the image of him** that created him: **where ... Christ is all and in all**
- 2 Cor 3.18 we ... are **changed into the same image** ... by the Spirit of the Lord

Walking in the Spirit: To be in the Spirit is to be in Christ & to mirror Christ

If we walk in the Spirit, the problem of Gal 5.17 is overcome:

- Gal 5.16-18 **Walk in the Spirit** and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh ... so that cannot do the things that ye would. **But if ye are led of the Spirit...**

But what does walking in the Spirit mean? It is to walk in the same Spirit of life that is in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the supply of the Spirit of Christ.

- Ro 8.2-4 **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God ... condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk ... after the Spirit.**
- Phil 1.19 the supply of **the Spirit of Christ**

So, the more we live in and walk in the Spirit, the more we become like Christ, progressively conformed to His image.

To the degree that we partake of the Spirit, we partake of Christ. This is why characteristics which in one verse are said to be from the Spirit, in another are said to be from Christ:

- Love Ro 15.30 the love **of the Spirit**
 2 Cor 5.14 the love **of Christ** constraineth us
- Joy Ro 14.17 joy **in the Holy Ghost**
 1 Th 1.6 joy **of the Holy Ghost**
 Jn 17.13 that they might have **my** joy fulfilled in themselves
- Peace Ro 14.17 peace **in the Holy Ghost**
J n 14.27 **my** peace I give unto you
- Faith 2 Cor 4.13 having the same **Spirit** of faith
 Gal 2.20 (AV) I live by the faith **of the Son of God**
- Meekness Gal 6.1 restore such an one in the **Spirit** of meekness
 1 Cor 4.21 shall I come ... in the **Spirit** of meekness?
 2 Cor 10.1 the meekness **of Christ**
- Mind Ro 8.6 to be spiritually minded (or, to have the mind **of the Spirit**)
 1 Cor 2.16 we have the mind **of Christ**

Of the Things we have Spoken, this is the Sum

So, then, what is sanctification/holiness?

- 1 Cor 1.30 It is Jesus Christ
- 1 Jn 4.17 It is to be as he is in this world
- Col 3.11 It is where Christ is all and in all

How can this be?

- Heb 12.10 Not by **copying** but by **partaking of** His holiness
- Heb 6.4 How? **By partaking of the Spirit**, the power of godliness. To partake of the Spirit is to partake of holiness, for He is the Spirit of holiness (Ro 1:4).

The result?

- 2 P 1.3-4 Just as to partake of the Spirit is to partake not just of holiness but of **His** holiness, so to experience the power of godliness is to actually partake of the divine nature, the very nature of God Himself.
- 1 P 1.16 Be ye holy **as I am holy**.

Unspeakable!