

General Topics :: Holiness and spiritual gifts

Holiness and spiritual gifts - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/22 13:10

In churches today there is a lack of balance about fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. Also you rarely here preachers talk about true biblical holiness, which is indispensable in the life of the believer.

What are your thoughts about biblical holiness, do you see it as a crises or process or both? What about love, do you think that we can be enabled to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves? The reason I'm asking this question is that there are those believers who because they believe in total depravity think that in this life we won't be delivered from original sin or sinful nature and this way we won't be able to love God as He commands on the Bible.

My last question is about spiritual gifts that has been described in 1 Corinthians 12-14 chapters, these gifts have been exaggerated or abused often in the pentecostal or charismatic movements and it has passed other believers on the opposite side to become cessationist who believe that those supernatural gifts have ceased after the apostolic age. I don't believe the cessationists have any solid biblical argument or any solid argument even from the history of the Church. The supernatural gifts have been manifested in the body of Christ throughout the history of the Church.

My reason of talking about holiness, love and spiritual gifts is for the purpose of encouraging each other, not for argument sake or for debating. Many Christians are afraid of holiness or don't really understand it in practical terms but as the author of Hebrews said: Without holiness no one will see the Lord. And Paul said that love is the greatest, so talking about these subjects is very important for us as Christians.

Blessings in Christ,

Re: Holiness and spiritual gifts - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/3/22 13:16

Perhaps an initial question is whether a person can exhibit the spiritual gifts and not walk in holiness, and if so, why that may be.

Re: - posted by deltadom (), on: 2016/3/23 11:56

I would say holiness is lacking but there has been books on the Holy Spirit in abundance , When people say that the church does not talk about a given subject it is a hard thing to disprove or prove as working in the Christian bookshop formally.

To prove that the church does not talk about an issue say such as Israel I could show you many popular books both for and against. I would say the books on Israel are say more bestseller than say the ones against.

The top bestsellers in the Christian world tend to be either vision casting leaders , the word of faith of movement

If we would to say the books that sell less are commentaries as the church desperately needs people who handle the word of God and history on their knees

Re: , on: 2016/3/23 12:52

History has been called "His Story".

Okay. Just my two cents worth.:)

Brother Blaine

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/23 16:08

Hi Todd,

I know from personal experience how focusing on spiritual gifts can lead you astray when you don't have spiritual maturity or spiritual counsel from brothers who are mature in faith. Even honesty is not a guarantee that we will not be let astray. How many millions of believers profess baptism with the Holy Spirit, speak in unknown tongues and yet don't show any hunger or thirst for righteousness or holiness?

Charismatic experiences often lack spiritual discernment. Discerning the spirits its a gift in the Body of Christ exercised for the purpose to test and discern the spirits. But where are those godly men in these movements who show the congregations when strange fire has fallen or unholy spirit is leading Christians astray? These voices are rare.

A true mark of a genuine spiritual awakening in the local church is that it will exalt Christ and bring people to genuine repentance, confession and the fruit will be holiness.

Edited

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/3/23 17:12

I certainly agree that ideally holiness would be the norm.

But my question is whether a person may operate in the legitimate (not counterfeit) spiritual gifts and not necessarily be living holy lives? I personally think it is possible; what I am not clear about is why God would allow this if holiness is so vital.

Re: Holiness and spiritual gifts - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/24 10:45

Thank you for this post and bringing up these issues that should be important to us all.

I agree that there is a lack of balance in the area of holiness, the fruit and gifts of the Spirit in most of the Body of Christ. One of the main reasons for this is that there are few churches that are teaching the whole council of God.

In many of the Charismatic Churches there is an overemphasis on the spiritual gifts, while holiness and the fruit of the Spirit are not emphasized enough.

In many of the non Charismatic churches there is priority given to the fruit of the Spirit but little or no emphasis on the Baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Sanctification is both instantaneous and progressive. From God's perspective, we are sanctified, justified, and in Christ at our initial salvation. Even with all of the faults and carnality in the Church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul is writing his epistle to them that are "sanctified in Christ Jesus."

Sanctification is also a process that will continue for the rest of our lives. God's purpose for us as sons of God is to grow in grace, becoming more and more like Christ, and this is a life long process. However, we should never believe that we have to sin every day. We have been set free from sin. God has made it possible for us to live a holy and sanctified life. Christ is living in us and desires to live His life through us. We are growing and maturing as we abide in Christ and put on His righteousness.

We also need the power of God in our lives that comes through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We have all been called to a ministry, and every believer has been given one or more spiritual gifts for the edification of the Body.

God desires that His Church would do the same works that Christ did on the earth, and even greater works. This is speaking of a corporate anointing that the Body of Christ should be walking in.

There are some in the Body of Christ that are still being used in spiritual gifts but are not living holy lives. This should not be going on, and it brings much harm to the Church of the living God.

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." (Romans 11:29).

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/24 11:04

I wonder myself if we can exercise spiritual gifts without love? In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul alludes to the possibility of possessing the gifts of the Spirit and not having love. Love is a fruit of the Spirit and to have it we need to be in personal relationship with Jesus. Genuine love of God cannot be poured out on us by the Holy Spirit unless we repent of our sins and believe Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Many who did miracles and healings in Jesus name will not go to heaven because Jesus never new them. It seemed to me God can allow those gifts to be exercised by persons who are not sanctified or who don't know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Why God allows this I don't know, that's why I mentioned holiness and love with spiritual gifts because we need to pursue more love and long for sanctification, at the same time not neglect to seek spiritual gifts.

For me spiritual wholeness is very important and holiness of heart is spiritual health. I believe that perfect holiness is possible for us by dying to our old self and putting on our new self which is in the likeness of Christ and by living in the Spirit and by crucifying the flesh with its desires and passions. This way the the Holy Spirit will sanctify us completely: spirit, soul and body. We are the temple of God and this temple needs to be pure and holy so that God's presence can be manifested in our spirit and our life.

There are those believers who believe that we can't be free from indwelling sin or sinful nature but I have noticed the Bible never says anything like that. It says to crucify the flesh and to put on Christ but it does not equals the crucified flesh with indwelling sin. Christ at the Cross has dealt with our sins and sets us free by his blood the moment when we believe Him and confess sins as believers.

Better than using sinful nature which is a theological term that it's not found anywhere in the bible we should use biblical terms like old man, the flesh, sinful flesh etc. The bible shows us the way to be free from this fallen adamic nature, the cross of Jesus is the answer.

I know that I'm talking about three different subjects at the same time like gifts, love and sanctification but I see that we all need these 3 elements in the Body of Christ. Holiness movement emphasized sanctification, charismatic movement emphasizes gifts of the Spirit, and there are those Christians that emphasize agape love but we need to keep things in order and pursue love and long for sanctification first at the same time diligently seek the gifts of the Spirit.

The Bridegroom is coming for his Bride and his Bride needs to prepare herself and get ready. He has given us the Holy Spirit to prepare and to cleanse us and to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. Someone would say that's impossible for the Body of Christ to be wholly sanctified. What is impossible in our sinful flesh it is possible only by faith, by the grace of God, by the Cross, by the Holy Spirit and by Christ himself.

While it would be impossible to have absolute perfection in this life for we know in part but when Jesus comes we will know in full and be perfect like He is, we still need to put on Christ and renew our minds by the Spirit daily so that sin won't

be tolerated and temptation would be resisted and as we walk in the light his blood will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

And spiritual gifts we need them in the Body of Christ but first we need to experience the love of God and love him with all of our heart and our neighbor as we do ourselves. Love, holiness and spiritual gifts will revolutionize our lives and the world will notice us because we will be like flames of fire burning and shining for the glory of God.

Our local churches will be powerful and Spirit filled when we experience the Spirit of sanctification and are filled with holy love and our witness for Jesus will be powerful. This is my desire and longing and God is reviving my heart and I'm aiming to do something about this holy vision and if I fail I will better fail trying but I don't believe that faith in Jesus will fail me. Each one is called to fulfill his calling and ministry. I gave many years to the flesh in the past and I so regret it, now it's about time giving it all to Christ and marching for Him to conquer.

Blessings in Christ,

Edited

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/24 11:19

"I mentioned holiness and love with spiritual gifts because we need to pursue more love and long for sanctification, at the same time not neglect to seek spiritual gifts."

The Apostle Paul commended the Corinthians believers for excelling in the gifts, but then he also pointed out their carnality. Chapter 13 (the love chapter) follows Chapter 12 which explains the gifts of the Spirit.

Without love, we are just making a lot of noise, and creating a lot of smoke. God doesn't give us gifts for our own personal use, but for the Body of Christ, and we must have the glory of God and the love of God foremost in our minds as we operate in the gifts. The gifts of the Spirit are not as we will, but as the Spirit wills. He administers the gifts, and He moves upon the Body to exercise those gifts in love.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/3/24 11:48

Brother Mike,

Amen! Amen! Amen!!!!

Though my words may not be as succinct as yours are, you have expressed very well my understanding of this, even the verses and instances you cited are where I was led when I pondered this thread-

While that doesn't make you/us "right",... I nonetheless am in agreement with your stated position:)

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2016/3/24 12:12

I think love is a greater component than holiness. (Again not suggesting holiness is not vital).

I have known brothers/sisters who were highly operative in the gifts although you might say they were a little rough around the edges. However in every case like this they were the type who would literally give the shirt off their back to help someone. Plus, they had quite a bit of faith and weren't scared to approach a person and pray boldly etc.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/3/24 14:14

Brother Todd,

Yes the scriptures say to love is the greatest,... it would seem to my mind that practicing love would be a vital component to holiness/sanctification.

But yes I've witnessed the same with very loving people being a lil rough round the edges themselves.

My conclusion,... As we work out what's been worked into us with all of our failings and stumbles, it seems holiness is often a messy business-

Just like sometimes the cleanest/purest among us have dirty knees;)

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/24 23:44

Hi Mike,

Thank you for the insights. Its true that from God's perspective we have been already sanctified and justified in Christ. In Christ we have everything we need for our Christian life. He is the Alpha and the Omega of our salvation and our faith. He is our sanctification and our justification. Our union with Christ is the ground of our righteousness and holiness. He is the source of every grace we receive from the Father. When we were born again by the Spirit, we were grafted in Christ so that we can bear fruit for the glory of the Father.

From the experimental point of view, I believe that sanctification is instantaneous as well as progressive. When we came to the Cross as sinners to receive Jesus as our Savior and put our trust in him to save us, something radical happened to us: God circumcised our heart and changed our stony heart to a heart of the flesh and He wrote his laws on our heart by his Spirit giving us the ability to obey Him. He made that possible only thru the atoning sacrifice of his Son on the Cross. Our sins were not only forgiven but his blood washed them away and the Holy Spirit regenerated us. We became a new creation in Christ.

This is the blessed reality of our initial salvation in Christ. We felt the joy of our salvation and the love poured out in our hearts, we longed for his presence and fellowship in prayer. We had a burden to witness to the lost and longed to bring sinners to the Cross and to salvation. We were growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord, at least this has been the common experience of many Christians.

Here comes the sad part. Later on in life most of us lost the joy of our salvation like David in Psalm 51. We grew cold in love for God or others and we started to backslide.

Many Christians are zealous about good works and faithful to the sound doctrines of the Bible and still can be in a state of backsliding like the Ephesian Christians at the end of the 1st century. This is the most sophisticated form of backsliding and its not easy to detect.

Others backslide by being lukewarm like the Laodecian Church who was neither cold or hot and in need of repentance. There is also another type of backsliding like that of the prodigal son who left his Father's house to go back to the world and live a carnal sinful lifestyle till he at last came back to his senses and repented and turned back to his Father's house as an unworthy son hoping that he will find a humble place even as a servant in his Father's house.

There are different forms of backslidings and I know that by experience not only because it is evident in the Bible. Why am I bringing up backsliding when we talk about sanctification? Its very necessary and relevant for us as believers today. Purity of heart is not an option but a necessity for Christian living. And I believe that Christ can make all of our heart pure by his shed blood on the Cross, and He can be the source of our purity and sanctification when we meet his conditions. There are degrees of sanctification but it is also true that there is a point in life when a Christian who is totally committed to Christ experiences entire sanctification of spirit, soul and body and purification from all filthiness and pollution of the body or spirit.

When a believer reaches by faith that point of total surrender and abandonment to God, a deep union and a very close fellowship takes place. The believer is conscience of Christ presence, the conscienceness of sin is gone and he feels a deep peace and inexpressible joy. All this new experience is nothing unusual but the normal experience of the life of faith

that was common in the primitive apostolic Church.

I believe the Bible teaches that kind of sanctification and purity. It was the standard expected of every believer and every one was exhorted to heart purity and to go on to perfection and to walk in the way of holiness as Isaiah called it. The narrow way of Christian discipleship was the norm not the exception in the early Church and obedience to the sermon on the mount was expected from everyone.

We as a Body of Christ can't grow to the full stature of Christ and reach that maturity of character and full potential in Christ unless all the gifts, graces and fruits are present and are received by faith and manifested in us and through us for the glory of the Father.

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2016/3/25 1:05

Maybe the story that is seen from Heaven is really one of how much God loves us flawed human beings and is able to gift with real Holy Spirit giftings anyone He desires to, I mean He rebuked a mad prophet through a donkey, and Sampson was more a womanizer than a saint. 1Cor 12 gifts 1 Cor 13 love 1 Cor 14 Gifts again, without the gifts of the Holy Spirit the church will not mature, the expressions of those giftings can be as vast as the sands on a thousand shores for diversity. To some degree we are never more holy in the sight of God than we are the first moment we are born into His kingdom, in the NT there is more emphasis being placed, or at least as much, on maturing in Christ as being Holy. Pretty much the same thing in the end, its growing up and exercising our senses to discern good, bad, clean, unclean, the holy and the profane. But apart from the gifts of the Holy Spirit it all ends in dead works because there is no real faith there, just human effort.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/25 9:20

"We as a Body of Christ can't grow to the full stature of Christ and reach that maturity of character and full potential in Christ unless all the gifts, graces and fruits are present and are received by faith and manifested in us and through us for the glory of the Father."

I appreciate the insights that you all have on this subject. Redi, I agree with you on what you have shared. Much of it has been my own Christian experience. However, I know that I haven't arrived yet and am still a work in progress.

We must return to our first love. The intimacy and fellowship with Jesus has to be the main thing that we are seeking. God is wanting to take us deeper, and we must maintain that spiritual hunger and thirst to want to know Him in all of His fullness. Have we seen that Christ is everything? It really does take a full surrender to enter into all that God has for us.

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 9:44

You can operate in the gifts by faith & lack love. This was, I believe, Paul's point to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 13 (the love chapter following spiritual gifts, especially prophecy). But Love is "the better way" & what we are ultimately called to. Holiness is "loving God with all your heart, mind, soul & strength" & "obeying His commandments", as well as "loving your neighbor as yourself" (unholiness in your life doesn't just affect you). You can also walk in some semblance of giftings without holiness, discipline, maturity, etc. Again, Paul's point to the Corinthians in needing to cast out the one in sexual immorality among them & not to even eat with a professing believer who willfully practices continual sin such as sexual immorality.

They are all intricately linked & taught in scripture: Faith (spiritual gifts), Love, Holiness, etc. Sure, the cessationist has no good Biblical grounds to stand on. Don't let excesses in charismania create a "reactionary theology" whereby because of excess/counterfeits we call God a liar & change His Word through our traditions. If you have faith, but not love, you will be empty & hard. If you have faith without holiness, you will spin off the rails at some point & find yourself in a bad place. But God's design is clearly that we believe Him & see His moving/power among a holy, passionate, loving & humble people He calls His Bride. This is the goal. And God wants it for us more than we want it for ourselves. We need the full 5-fold ministry in its proper place to have a full Body (at least corporately) & the gifts believed & allowed to function as God sees fit. Why would we limit God except unbelief or pride?

At the Same time we need prophetic gifts, we also need real, mature, Godly teachers too, so we aren't a mile wide & a 1/2" deep. And with all teachers & no prophets, we are all doctrinal headiness & no prophetic leading of the Lord's Spirit. With no evangelists, we are inwardly focused & not focused on the outward harvest. Etc., etc. Paul's letters to the Corinthians do the best & most concise job overall explaining the Body, its members, its importance, how it should function, etc. And that without holiness &/or without love, it's all for nothing as a loud crashing cymbal or gong (just noise).

So it's not "either/or" ultimately, but all of the above that are importance for us to become the church Christ died & sent His spirit for us to become (a bride without spot, wrinkle, or blemish). We haven't yet attained it, but we should be putting the past behind us cosorately & straining ahead (individually & corporately) for the high calling in Christ Jesus, & growing from Glory to Glory in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/25 11:36

Brother Jeff wrote:

So it's not "either/or" ultimately, but all of the above that are importance for us to become the church Christ died & sent His spirit for us to become (a bride without spot, wrinkle, or blemish). We haven't yet attained it, but we should be putting the past behind us cosorately & straining ahead (individually & corporately) for the high calling in Christ Jesus, & growing from Glory to Glory in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen brother! very good discussion with balance!

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 12:11

The concept of God's people being a bride married to God was pre-figured in the Israelite people of the old covenant (Jer. 2:2; Hosea 2,3), who provided an inadequate picture by their unfaithfulness (Isa. 1:21; Hosea 2:5). The prophet declared that a time would come when God's people would be "betrothed to Him in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness, compassion and faithfulness" (Hosea 2:19,20). That is fulfilled in the people of God in the new covenant, Christians who are joined spiritually with the Lord (I Cor. 6:17) and are considered to be the bride of Christ.

In Biblical times the man and the woman were first betrothed in a legally binding agreement, and then after a period of time which was often a year or longer, they were wed in an elaborate ceremony and their union was consummated. Analogous to this, Christians are regarded as having been "betrothed to Christ" spiritually, and after a period of time when Jesus Christ returns, they will be collectively "presented to Him as a pure virgin" (II Cor. 11:2) at the marriage of the Lamb.

The spiritual bride, the Christian community, "makes herself ready" by allowing the Spirit of Christ to "sanctify her" in order to "present her to Himself in all her glory, holy and blameless" (Eph. 5:26,27). The bride of the Christian community "clothes herself in fine linen, bright and clean, which is the righteous acts of the saints" (19:8), the character of Christ Himself, which is in sharp contrast to the gaudy garb of the prostitute of the religious community (17:4).

When Christ returns the "marriage of the Lamb" will take place and all Christians will participate in the consummation of eternally unhindered matrimony and intimacy with Jesus Christ, the bridegroom. "Blessed" indeed "are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (19:9), for only Christians are invited who have "been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:3) and have allowed themselves to be perfected (Phil. 1:6) in sanctification (Heb. 12:14), purity, holiness and righteousness.

- Jim Fowler

Re: - posted by dohzman (), on: 2016/3/25 12:25

I think you guys are correct on all the above, I can't speak for others' backgrounds but I can for pentecostals and charismatics, it seems there has been great confusion because those individuals who have learned to exercise themselves, or yield, to the Holy Spirit's giftings is somehow thought to be more spiritual or holy than others in the body and so it seems like the real focus of bearing fruit is somehow lost, and this camp seems to fixate on just a few gifts instead of allowing the Lord full expression in His infinitude of who He is and what He can accomplish if we would just let Him, but the gifts are still not a good indicator of a life fully surrendered to the Lordship of Christ. Unfortunately when many of us (I plead guilty here in times past) start to look too closely at others we become judges within ourselves and we find it difficult to walk by faith toward those in the body of Christ who we may for some reason rub us the wrong way. Then we call it spiritual di

scernment instead of (as was mentioned above) just covering others unseemly parts with the Love of Christ and our prayers. And to be painfully honest it is sometimes really hard to pray for some people, whether you know them or not, saved or unsaved. I think there's a pharisee in all of us that seems to cry out for justice and judgement instead of mercy and forgiveness, and so often we end up comparing ourselves by ourselves which we are told is not wise. So the whole subject of Gifts vs Holiness can be and often is a real hot flash point among those in the body of Christ.

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 13:52

I am greatly encouraged to find a growing consciousness amongst believers, that things are not quite right with them, despite the charismatic promises, and they are becoming thirstier for the streams of living waters to be poured from their bellies.

Brother Frank said elsewhere, that he did not think there would be any more revivals but I must respectfully disagree on the grounds that I believe that the hunger and thirst for a pure heart and holiness to have been planted there by the Lord.

The longing is intensifying and people are really becoming desperate which is wonderful as it is exactly this realisation of our failures and inadequacies that clears the pathway for Christ to bring us to transformational repentance. Formerly people had been complacent and filled with pride at the thought that they were specially gifted because of something in themselves, but the wholesale acceptance of what were assumed to be from God, with an entire lack of discernment, showed that they were being deceived about what they saw as a baptism of the Spirit.

A charismatic woman called Patricia Knowles wrote a book about this called Holiness, The key to revival. She had begun to question why she did not see Holy lives in others and herself and after reading books from the past came to the conclusion, that the present understanding of Spirit baptism was in error and it was entire sanctification that it was all about. Jessie Penn Lewis also wrote about this in detail in her War on the Saints, describing the deception and false teaching that was spoiling the Welsh revivals.

The woman I mentioned has since sought the blessing fervently, with her husband but I have not heard yet whether it has been obtained. I think not, but she continues to teach what was revealed to her.

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 14:58

As long as Jesus is alive there will be revivals in men and women.

Isa 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Jesus will certainly be here.

And there will always be some people with humble and contrite hearts.

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 22:31

There will always be personal revival yes. But when there's a Sovereign move of God where massive amounts of people in one nation are coming to the Lord (like is happening in Iran right now - leading the world in conversions and thus called revival). I believe a "revival" will come to America again only if/when (massive numbers of people coming to Christ in the same time period - which ain't happening here right now) judgements & great shaking comes also to awaken & remove the idols most Americans lean on. To say in the new covenant there's no such thing as "mass revival" is to ignore the Great Awakening, The Chinese revival of the last 20+ years, the Iranian revival taking place right now, etc. just to explain away these things to suit a certain grid/paradigm.

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 23:17

Brother, I am certainly praying and hoping revival will come to America, too.

Most people see the futility of the political system since the 2014 elections and this time, when they see what the establishment is going to do, I hope they finally realize there is no hope or solution in politics and they humbly turn to God for all their needs.

But, for over 40 years now I have seen the Church putting their hope in politics and for 40 years they have not gotten what they wanted as America as devolved into decadence and sin. There must be a turning to God, soon.

Re: , on: 2016/3/25 23:52

I agree that the answer is not in politics but repentance

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/26 1:49

May God grant us this holy dissatisfaction as A.W.Tozer called it. Every holy longing and desire for God and his holy presence is born of the Holy Spirit in us. We need so much heart brokenness and humility and a bold faith that will ascend to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in the time of need.

Personal revival is something that I long for and its possible for everyone of us, if we fulfill those conditions for intimate relationship with Jesus and total surrender by faith to Him. Consecrating our will and our heart to Him, and expecting and receiving by faith the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire. Clothed with power from on high and filled with the Holy Spirit is the crying need of today.

Paul said not to quench the Spirit, there is this holy fire that should burn deep down our hearts and purify us like gold is purified from dross. Tozer wrote about the fellowship of the burning hearts, those who know God thru a living experience, know that to enter his holy presence they need to come to the Cross and wash away their sins and with purity of heart approach the Holy of Holies in the Heavenly Tabernacle and worship their heavenly Father in spirit and truth.

How deep and broad and incomprehensible is the pure love of God and it is His pure love shed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, that gives us the confidence to call God our Abba, Father. This divine love we know only as we experience the indwelling Spirit and are led by the Spirit and not by the flesh. The flesh and the Spirit are in conflict with each other, if we don't crucify the flesh we will give in to temptation and sin will enslave us but if we crucify the flesh and let the Spirit have its way with us and control us we will be more than overcomers.

That's what I believe about sanctification - we need to set apart ourselves as vessels of honor in the Temple of God and separate ourselves from sin, the world and everything that is an hindrance between us and God and we can do that only by the power of the blood and Holy Spirit and faith and total surrender in Jesus are indispensable. It is not just a blessing that we are to seek after but the Giver of every blessings. It is Christ who is our Sanctifier and its not about an "it" but Him that we should seek not just to bless us but to indwell our hearts and to be enthroned as the only legitimate King.

It is the will of God that we be wholly sanctified and as we seek his will and obey Him from the heart and walk in the light of his Word and the truth will set us free.

The secret of holy heart and life is Christ in us and as we give all of us to him, we in return will receive from Him all the blessings we need to live a godly life.

In Christ only we have new life and are a new man, the old man has died on the Cross and we should reckon ourselves as dead with Christ on the Cross and as dead to sin and slaves to righteousness and the fruit of holiness will be evident in our life.

Blessings,

Re: , on: 2016/3/26 10:55

Yes Redi, I agree that we are not to seek the blessing but rather the giver of the blessing and perhaps it is the reason why so many seek and seek but do not find.

It is only when our motivation is right that we will find entrance.

Re: , on: 2016/3/26 11:51

So true, Brenda.

Jesus is not an enabler of co-dependent children.

Whenever the periphery is in danger of displacing the center, we are not far removed from idolatry.

- D.A. Carson

Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2016/3/26 15:44

Hi Brenda,

Our Father gives us blessings when we ask Him in Jesus name and by faith with a humble heart. We are his children and He loves us but He wants us to mature and grow up in our faith and learn to seek and love Him for who He is and not just for the blessings we receive.

This way we don't depend on our feelings but in our faith in Him. That's why we call it the life of faith, it's a higher plane and it's a life in total dependence on Jesus and sooner or later as we remain faithful to Him and walk by faith, He will give us more than we expected or longed for. His blessings will so overflow us and our cup will run and rivers of living waters will flow out of our bellies as Jesus promised and we will be a great blessing to others and our witness for Jesus will lead sinners to the Cross and saints will be encouraged and build up in their faith by our service in the Lord. God uses broken vessels and hearts that are humble and contrite in His presence.

Blessings sister,

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2016/3/26 16:18

Praise God that the same Holy Spirit that dwells in us and produces the fruit of the Spirit as we abide in Christ also comes upon us in power enabling and empowering us to fulfill our ministry and be a witness for Christ.

He is the same Spirit that sanctifies us and makes us Holy.

He is the same Spirit that lives within us to intercede through us because we do not know how to pray as we ought to.

He is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, and he quickens (gives life) to our mortal bodies, this includes healing in the here and now.

May we as the saints of the living God

avail ourselves to all of the ministry of
The Comforter.