

FULLY FURNISHED

or

THE CHRISTIAN WORKER'S EQUIPMENT

by

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

THE WORKER'S SANCTIFIER

ONE of the seven “**As He's**” of John's first Epistle is, “**As He is, so are we**” (I John 4:17). May we not apply these words to the subject before us? For what was true of Christ in reference to the Holy Spirit is also true of us, who are believers in Him.

- As He was born of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), so are we (John 1:13);
- As He was sealed with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22), so are we (Ephesians 1:13);
- As He was led by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1), so are we (Romans 8:14);
- As He was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38), so are we (II Corinthians 1:21);
- As He acted in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14-19), so should we (Acts 1:8);
- As He offered Himself as a sacrifice for sin to God by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 9:14), so should we be sacrificing ourselves, in order to be well pleasing to Him as His children and servants (Romans 15:16); and
- As He was raised from the dead by the Spirit (I Peter 3:18), so shall we be quickened (Romans 8:11).

The scriptural meaning of the word “**sanctification**” is *separation or dedication*. Believers are separated to God, in Christ, from the world, and as such they are to dedicate themselves unreservedly to God, for Himself and His service, by the power of the Holy Spirit. We shall take up a few Scriptures in reference to the Holy Spirit and the believer, and seek to bring out the practical side of the truth as illustrating the Spirit's operation in His sanctifying grace.

I - As sinners, we are quickened by the Holy Spirit.

“**Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God**” (John 3:5).

What is the evidence that we are born of God? We have the question answered in John's first Epistle.

(1) “**Ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him**” (2:29). The meaning of the word “**righteousness**” is straightness. Uprightness of life, and straightness of conduct, are evidences of the new birth, even as the growth of the plant is evidence of its being alive.

(2) **“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin,”** &c. (3:9), that is, *does not willfully or habitually do it*. God has made no provision for us to sin, although if we do sin, Christ’s advocacy provides for our restoration (I John 2:1).

It is the nature of a sow to wallow in the mire, but if a sheep gets into the mire it is not in its element, and seeks to get out of it. The unsaved delight in sin, but the Christian, while he may be tripped up, through sudden temptation, can never be happy in sin, even as the normal condition of the electric wire is to transmit the electric current, although there may be a temporary cessation, through some intervening obstacle.

The normal condition of the child of God is, he is no longer in the servitude of sin, nor has he any desire to do the biddings of the old master.

(3) **“Everyone that loveth is born of God”** (4:7). **“We love Him, because He first loved us”**; we love all who are His, although we cannot always love some of their ways; and being constrained by His love, we love those who are perishing, True love always does two things, it gives its best, like Mary with her costly box of spikenard (John 12:3); and it does its utmost, like Jonathan in his plan to benefit David (I Samuel 18:4).

(4) **“Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world”** (5:4). There is victory over the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, as we trust in the Lord.

- We ignore the flesh as Joseph did (Genesis 39:9), by remembering we are crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20).
- We look to the Lord as Abraham did (Genesis 13:14-18), and thus keep our eyes from beholding vanity (Psalm 119:37); and
- We let the Spirit work in us the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:1-5), and follow His humble example, and thus kill the evil weed of pride.

II - As saints, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

“Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”
(Ephesians 4:30).

All the sacrifices of old upon being found without blemish were sealed, or a mark was put upon them, as attesting the fact that they were fit for sacrifice. Christ was sealed because of what He was in Himself (John 6:27; Luke 3:22); we are sealed because of what we are in Him (Ephesians 1:13). The Spirit as the Seal, is God’s mark upon us that we are His, for **“if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His;”** also that we are accepted in the Beloved, the Spirit by the word telling us this, that in Him, having believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13). When a seal is pressed upon the melted wax, there is the impression of the die left.

The Spirit being within us, He writes God’s law on our hearts and minds, so that we not only keep the letter of the moral law, but the spirit of it; and the impression of His presence is seen in the life, in the fruit of Himself, which is **“love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”**

III - As children of God, we have the witness of the Spirit.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6). The Lord witnesses to us by His Word, for **“he that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in him.”** The witness is this, that the Lord has given unto us eternal life (I John 5:10-13), and we know it because He tells us so in the Word. He has given to us the possession of the Spirit, whom He has sent into our hearts, and who cries there **“Abba Father.”** This **“witness”** is twofold. There is the witness from God to us, that we are the children of God, which He gives to us in His Word, and which He makes true in our experience; and then there is the witness from us to God, which is born of our obedience to Him through the Spirit’s power, and which has its resting-place in an uncondemning heart (I John 3:20-24).

IV - As priests, we are anointed with the Holy Spirit for worship, work, and walk.

“Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God” (II Corinthians 1:21). **“And ye have an unction [anointing] from the Holy One”** (I John 2:20, 27). All God’s children are priests.

- We are a holy priesthood and a royal priesthood. A **“holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”** (I Peter 2:5).
- We are to yield our bodies as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1).
- We are to offer up the sacrifice of praise to God continually (Hebrews 13:15).
- We are not to forget to do good to others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16; Philippians 4:18).

These sacrifices are all to be offered up in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, for it is by Him we have access through Christ to the Father (Ephesians 2:18). And it is only as we are working in the Spirit, that the work is pleasing to God (Galatians 6:8).

Again, **“we are a royal priesthood that we should show forth the praises [or virtues] of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light”** (I Peter 2:9). Here we see our individual responsibility to glorify God in our walk, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Being in the light, the light is to be in us, through our habitual walk in it, then the light of God’s love and grace shall radiate from us, even as it did in the case of Moses after He had been in the presence of the Lord forty days, and the people knew it, for his shining face was an unmistakable argument (Exodus 34:35).

V - As members of the Body of Christ, we have the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body” (I Corinthians 12:13).

It is not merely a judicial fact, but a living reality, that we are united to the Lord Jesus, by the Holy Spirit; hence, we are united to one another. This union, as we abide in Christ and His words abide in us, gives us to experience the risen life of Christ, and to know in very deed, that the **“law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made us free from the law of sin and death.”**

The practical outcome of this is, the fulfillment of the eleventh commandment, which is **“loving one another.”**

How is it Christians do not realize the keeping and energizing power of the Spirit? Why do they not love each other with pure hearts fervently? Because the channels of communication between God and the soul are not clear.

When the cable was being laid down between England and America, there was something that stopped the communication, and they had to take the cable up and remove the hindrance.

If there is any known sin, or doubtful thing in the life, or an evil heart of unbelief, let the Master remove it, then shall be realized as we recognize, and remember by faith that we are in Christ, His almighty power; for as we by the Spirit manifest the disposition of Christ, we realize more of the Spirit.

We often ask for more grace, and more of the Spirit's power; what we really need is, that God should have more of us, and then we should possess more of Him.

Let us acknowledge to the Spirit, His right to possess us, and in faith pray-

“Thine is the throne-room of the soul!
Its Ruler, break each barrier down;
As with full tide o’erflood the whole,
Self overborne by Thee alone
Spirit of Truth, of Holiness.
We cry not ‘enter,’ but ‘possess.’ “

VI - As heirs of God, we have the Spirit as the Earnest of our inheritance.

“The Holy Spirit of promise, which is the Earnest of our inheritance” (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

The Spirit is the Earnest of our inheritance; the Pledge of our Resurrection, or of our being changed at the coming of Christ; and the Token - or as our Scotch friends would say, “the Aries” - of our sharing the coming glory with Christ. We are brought to God and to Heaven by the work of Christ for us; but God and Heaven are brought to us by the Spirit, as Christ lives in us as the Hope of Glory.

What is Heaven?

- Emancipation from a body humiliated by sin (Philippians 3:21);
- Conformation to Christ's image (Romans 8:29);
- Satisfaction in the Lord's presence (Revelation 7:15-17);
- Reflection of God's glory (Revelation 21:11); and
- Communion with Christ in His glory (John 17:24).

We have a foretaste of these blessings now (John 8:36; I John 3:3; Psalm 103:5; I Corinthians 1:9), even as Israel had a foretaste of the fruitfulness of Canaan, in the fruit which the spies brought back from the land (Numbers 13:2}-25).

We are a heavenly people, and while in the world, we are not of it; as strangers we do not belong to it, as foreigners we are not at home in it, and as pilgrims we are hastening through this world to our heavenly fatherland.

VII - As temples of God, we have the presence of the Spirit.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you” (I Corinthians 3:16).

The Dagon of the flesh must fall before His presence (I Samuel 5:3); the things of earth, the love of money, self-glorifying, self-seeking, self-love, and self-esteem must all be cleared out before Him, even as Christ cleared out the money changers from the temple, and then He will come and fill His temple with His glory, so that self will not be able to stand, even as Moses in the tabernacle, and the priests at the dedication of Solomon’s temple, could not stand before the glory of the Lord, and then shall it be said, **“Every whit of it uttereth (margin) His glory”** (Psalm 29:9). There may be some who hesitate to allow the Lord to cleanse out every defiling thing. If so, those who do so, have the grave question to consider, are they the Lord’s at all, for surely one result of being His, is the desire to do as He wishes. Besides, it will mean unspeakable blessing.

When Mahmoud, the conqueror of India, had taken the city of Gujarat, he proceeded, as was his custom, to destroy the idols. There was one, fifteen feet high, which its priests and devotees begged him to spare. He was deaf to their entreaties, and seizing a hammer he struck it one blow; when, to his amazement, from the shattered image there rained down at his feet a shower of gems, pearls, and diamonds - treasure of fabulous value, which had been hidden within it! Had he spared the idol he would have lost all this wealth. Let us not spare our idols. It is to our interest to demolish them. If we shatter them, there will rain upon our hearts the very treasures of Heaven, the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit; but if we spare our idols we shall miss riches unspeakable, as well as desecrate the temple of the Holy Spirit, and place ourselves under the chastening hand of God.

VIII - As believers, we need the daily renewing and supply of the Holy Spirit.

“And when they had prayed . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 4:31).

We need this renewing for our spiritual growth in grace,

- For our downward growth in the truth,
- For our upward growth into Christ,
- And for our outward growth in usefulness.

We need this renewing for daily walk, every detail in everyday life, and for victory over self, for if we **“walk in the Spirit, we shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh”** (Galatians 5:16).

We need this renewing for our work, abounding by the power of the Spirit.

- Yesterday’s manna will not do for to-day.
- Yesterday’s success will not answer for the present.
- Yesterday’s filling and power for service will not avail now.

The apostle Peter illustrates this: he was **“filled with the Holy Ghost”** on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4), and yet we find him with the rest again filled at a later period (Acts 4:31).

He needed a fresh equipment for new service. As the cistern is filled with water again, when it is drawn out, through the action of the ball-tap allowing the supply to enter; so as we keep in fellowship with the Lord, He meets the recurring need by the supply of the Spirit.

How are we to get this renewing?

(1) By waiting upon God in prayer.

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles” (Godward), **They shall run and not be weary** (in the Lord’s commands, and through the world), **and they shall walk and not faint”** (as we live in the Spirit).

(2) By searching the Word. As illustrating this, read Psalm 119, where in nearly every verse we have a reference to the Word of God, and notice its practical results.

(3) By faith. How often we hear Christians say, “I cannot do this, and I do not realize that.” Is it not because of unbelief? The Master is saying, **“Believe ye that I am able to do this?”** Faith responds, **“Yes, Lord.”**

- As we do the trusting, He will do the keeping,
- As we do the yielding, He will do the filling;
- As we do the obeying, He will do the empowering;
- As we do the submitting, He will give the victories,

And this He will accomplish by the indwelling, inflowing, and outflowing of the Holy Spirit; for

“Every virtue we possess,
And every victory won,
And every thought of holiness,
Are His alone.”

~ end of chapter 18 ~

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