Holy Spirit #20
By Lloyd Anderson

Lloyd Anderson:

We have been sharing with you the subject of grieving the Holy Spirit of God. You remember we're currently in a series, and just rather finishing out a series, on the Holy Spirit who is our helper. And we've been speaking to you on our last broadcast together, how the Holy Spirit can be grieved. He's grieved by the things that we as believers do because He lives within us. You see He's the Spirit of Christ, and He indwells every born again believer in Christ. And in Ephesians chapter four as we related to you last study, you'll have a listing of a number of things that grieve the Holy Spirit. For example, we went into things, like in verses 19 and 20 of Ephesians Chapter 4, the impurity of a life can grieve the Holy Spirit. If the impurity is found in a Christian. If there is immorality, or adultery, or loose living on the part of the believer, this is something against which the Holy Spirit militates and is greatly grieved about.

Then you remember falsehood and deception were two things that the Holy Spirit is grieved over in the life of the believer. Anger, and malice, and kindred emotions like that, that destroy and disrupt human and divine relationships are other things that the Holy Spirit mentions in Ephesians Chapter 4 as grieving the Holy Spirit. Stealing, laziness, corrupt speech that comes out of our mouths, whether it's in jokes or words that we use, the believer should always bear a testimony for Jesus Christ. Now you remember, we shared with you the fact that the Holy Spirit can be grieved, and now let me ask the question and seek to bring an answer to it, what are the results of the believer grieving the Holy Spirit? Now first of all, going back to the 40 years in the wilderness when Israel was wandering on her way from Egypt into the Promised Land, when He
was grieved with their unbelief and consequent disobedience, what happened? Did it make any difference?

You have the unerring answer of history in the Old Testament, that generation that left the land of Egypt and moved in the direction of the Promised Land, never reached the land that flows with milk and honey. They died in the wilderness without tasting the richness of their rightful possessions. Life was a desert experience. And my friend, I wonder as I speak to you today, is that the picture of your life? Is at a desert instead of an oasis. It's possible for a believer to live like a pagan, and when you do you miss the flowing cup of heavenly gladness and the great realities which could be yours in Jesus Christ, if you allowed Him to do so. You hear other people speak of the deep satisfaction and the heavenly joys to which your heart may be a stranger. And instead of the Holy Spirit pouring the wealth of heaven into the depository of your heart, He is merely a solicitor who knocks at the inner door and quietly is speaking His constant reproof in your ear.

Dr. Lewis Sperry Shafer, who many many years ago founded Dallas and was its president for a number of years, with keen discrimination says that "then His ministry, instead of being in and through us, must be one of solicitation to us." And he was talking about the Holy Spirit. He says, "If we grieve Him and if we do those things that are not pleasing to the Lord, the Holy Spirit, grieved within us, has to minister to us, rather than through us." And this can be a tragedy. He has to appeal rather than reveal, like a willful child that the parent has to be continually chiding instead of loving. And this is what the Holy Spirit often has to do with us as believers. How much better to have Him as our minister rather than our reprover.
Then there's another angle to all of this business of grieving the Holy Spirit. You remember in Isaiah chapter 63 and verse 10, we read concerning the people of Israel, "but they rebelled against the Lord and they grieved His Holy Spirit. Therefore He was turned to be their enemy and He Himself fought against them instead of for them." Now turning away from the Holy Spirit and refusing to take His counsel, and the way He wants us to walk, necessitates frequently He's taking an attitude against us. Now, this does not mean that He leaves us. He is always living within the born again believer. But if this comes about, only because our attitude toward God and toward the things of Christ, make this inevitable. And what a terrible thing to have this great friend the Holy Spirit and this great lover who lives within us, against what we do. How it takes the sunshine out of the day and leads to unspeakable misery within.

But that isn't all. Reading down through that sixty third chapter of the Book of Isaiah, we hear the people saying "where is God? Where is He?" And you see they talk of the good old days, and they talk about God's mighty acts in the good old days. And their religion is mostly in the reminiscent mood, and this is the tragedy of many Christians today, all they can remember is what God has done in the past. But my friend, they don't have any spiritual vitality because God isn't allowed to do anything through them in the present. And the future can be dark for them unless they yield to the Lord who lives within, the Holy Spirit. They glory in other days, but that glory has gone out of today. You see the chapter closes with these pathetic words in Isaiah 63, "We are become as they over whom bound never barashed rule, as they that were not called by Thy name at all." In other words, they're saying to themselves, we have so drifted away from the
Lord, we have so definitely grieved the Holy Spirit of God, said these old testament Israelites, that we are acting and we appear as the people around us who don't even know the Lord at all.

Now what a tragedy to have to say this about themselves. They had become as outsiders to the Lord. Yes, these people with their glorious history of any nation under heaven, with their record of the mighty things that God had done for them in other years, miracles of mercy and helpfulness, having a city, Jerusalem, famous for its association, a temple, Solomon's Temple, which was the dwelling place of Heaven's God. Now they were compelled to ask where is the God of yesterday? That's sad, that they had to ask a question like that. That's just like the believer today saying, where are the blessings that I used to have? Well my friend, the average believer can give an answer to his own question. It's because he's drifted away from the Lord that he doesn't have the blessings he used to have. How sad when the great things in life are simply a memory, when they are simply a yesterday affair.

And my friend in radio land, how about you? Are you reading your story in this ancient record of Israel in Isaiah 63? Is the life that you're living today bringing pleasure or pain to the heart of the comforter the Holy Spirit, who lives within you as a believer. And my friend I would remind you of His concern and solicitation in the words of our scripture. Ephesians 4 and verse thirty, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God in whom you were sealed until the day of redemption." Then we come to another phase of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit, and that of course is the Spirit filled life. And in Ephesians 5 and verse 18, the scripture says "Be filled with the Spirit." Now this subject, being filled with the Holy Spirit, has called forth a veritable stream of literature across
the years revealing quite a divergence of opinion as to what is meant by "being filled with the Holy Spirit."

There are those today who tell us that you accept Christ as your own personal savior and you become a Christian. Then, after that happens, you must be baptized by the Holy Spirit. Now I don't believe the Bible teaches that. I believe on the basis of First Corinthians 12:13, that the very moment you are born again, simultaneous with that act, you are baptized, or as it is in the Greek, you are immersed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. Now this is the only baptism of the Holy Spirit I know anything about in the New Testament. We might talk about it, we may even go so far as to say that being baptized with the Holy Spirit has to be indicated and accompanied by speaking in tongues. Now certainly I'm not going to dispute with anybody who loves the Lord over a difference of opinion along this line. Personally I don't hold that view. But I do believe that the Bible clearly teaches that when you come to the four gospels of the New Testament, you repeatedly hear John the Baptist as he talks about Christ who is preaching down by the River Jordan.

He says "He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost. He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost." But my friend, through the four Gospels and through the book of the Acts, you do not have a definition of what he means until you come to First Corinthians 12:13. And in First Corinthians 12:13, you have the only definition of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. And that baptism of the Holy Spirit is defined by Paul as being the operation of the Holy Spirit, by which He takes me the moment I trust in Christ as my Savior, and He places me into the body of Christ. Now that's the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now it can be emotional or unemotional,
depending upon the temperament of the individual. But my friend, the spiritual transaction is just
as great either way. And so there is a great and vast difference between being baptized with the
Holy Ghost, which means you are placed into the body of Christ simultaneous with your faith in
Christ the moment you believe, and on the other hand, being filled with the Holy Spirit which as
we're going to see, can take place rather frequently in the believer's life.

Now as I've said, this has called forth a veritable stream of literature, and many sermons have
been preached, and differences of opinion have been raised across the years, and much confusion
and uncertainty is abroad in the land about the meaning of it all. Now the multiplicity of
viewpoint and variety of treatment, I believe, had-have tended to becloud and obscure what I
now believe to be the truth. These remarks drive home a fact that we slowly learn, namely that
God's Word is the last word on any biblical, spiritual subject, or any other spiritual truth of which
it treats. All we can ever know in this world about the person and the work of the Holy Spirit is
within the covers of the Bible. And my friend, I am not going to get a definition of the Ministry
of the Holy Spirit simply by listening to some individual, preacher or otherwise, who gives me
an account of some emotional experience that they had.

This is not the basis upon which I am to judge the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. I am to judge the
Ministry of the Holy Spirit by what the Bible teaches about it. And then my friend, the
experiences of people will have to fit into the guidelines of what the Bible teaches. But too often
it's the other way around. Somebody has a tremendous emotional experience and then we try to
fit it into the teaching of the Bible and somehow it doesn't always fit. My friend this is the wrong
approach. This is the cart before the horse. And so if we will not take time to search the
scriptures for the truth, we may have to be satisfied with half-truths, and sometimes even falsehoods. There is ever the desire to read what men have to say, and it would be well if we were just as desirous of discovering what God has to say in His own word.

Too often the words of men are treated as if they were the Word of God. Many unbiblical and misleading terms have gained currency in the religious world, because God's people have failed to go to the source of truth which is the Bible. We have all heard such expressions as the "second blessing", or a "second work of grace", or the "higher life", or "an entire sanctification", or "fully baptized with the Spirit after I'm saved", and other terms which represent certain schools of teaching theologically. And which in our judgment, I believe, have tended to becloud the thinking of believers and obscure the glory of the divine Word. One will look in vain for any second blessing teaching in the Bible. I would hate to think that all that there was there was for me, that when I receive the second from then on there would be no more. God has much more forests than any second blessing. He's got a third, and a fourth, and a fifth, and a tenth, and a thousandth.

In the book of the Acts, we read of the same men being filled with the Spirit of God again and again, filled for every new crisis and every new requirement. And you remember in Second Corinthians 3:18, you get the sweep of the whole statement, that the believer is transformed into the same image, now notice, from glory to glory. You see it's a tremendous up sweep as we grow in the Christian life. And that expression, in Second Corinthians 3:18 "glory to glory", embraces all possibilities of growth and experience spiritually. It leaves out nothing. It takes in not only the second blessing, but the millionth blessing. What is the method by which it is to be realized?
Well the verse itself provides the answer. In Second Corinthians 3:18, "by the Lord the Spirit."

Now the human equation in Second Corinthians 3:18, is that "we all with unveiled faces behold, as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord." And so the Spirit filled life is a very definite and clearly definitive life that the believer is to live in Jesus Christ. Well we'll touch upon that as we move along in our next studies together, as we look in the things of Christ.

[Creaking and door shutting]