

Why We Need The Holy Spirit

By David Hocking

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Amen. That was fantastic. Praise the Lord. It's kind of hard act to follow, though, Ken.

I knew I was big trouble today. Friend of mine called me up and said, hey, you want to go to the Ken Medema concert tonight at the Biola gym? I said, you know, it's funny. I had planned on going. He said, Well, hey, we got tickets. We'd love to have you go, why don't I pick you up about 7:30? I said, well, I got to be out there a little earlier than that. He said, why is that? I said, well, because I'm preaching out there. He said, they got that at a concert too?

But I'll tell you, it's a joy to be with you, Ken. I love the sounds that come out of your wonderfully, gifted life that has come truly from the Lord. And I know you know that. But I love more than that. The content of your music. There never has been a day in which we are more needing content. I'm not really that uptight about style, and we all know that God blesses two kinds of music, country and Western.

But seriously, I see we have some rednecks that need to get saved. But no matter what the style we need to worship and praise the Lord. Now our subject is why we need the Holy Spirit of God. Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Galatians chapter five, beginning of verse 16, Galatians five, verse 16. Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

My time with you on this subject involves three messages, the first one we had this morning and the first answer to that question, why do we need the Holy Spirit is to be converted and convinced of our present relationship to Jesus Christ.

We observe the fact that many people who call themselves Christians, in fact, don't appear to be living the Christian life. Jesus said "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord'" and he'll say

"Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity. I never knew you." We need the Holy Spirit to be converted and convinced of our present relationship to Jesus Christ. Now the second thought on why we need the Holy Spirit, which we'll deal with tonight, in tonight's message, is that we need the Holy Spirit to be Christlike and controlled in all we say and do. Let me repeat that again. We need the Holy Spirit to be Christ-like and controlled in all we say and do.

Galatians chapter 5 please, beginning in verse 16. "I say then, walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery"--the Greek word is "drugs"--"hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries."

And if he didn't get you on those, he does in the next phrase, "and the like." "Of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God." This morning we learned you had to be born again to enter the Kingdom of God. And now we're told that anyone who practices these things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Verse 22. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

Will you join me, please, in a moment of prayer? Father, I would pray in these few brief moments here tonight that you would open up our hearts to our desperate need for the Holy

Spirit to be truly Christlike. To live as the Lord would have us live, to be controlled in all of our desires, that we might truly reflect the glory of Jesus Christ.

We thank you for what you're going to do in Jesus name we pray. Amen. If you ask me what is, according to the Bible, the fundamental work of the Holy Spirit, I would give you the following three things. One, is to guarantee the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. Two, it is to give eternal life to all who believe. And three, when you talk about the fundamental ministry of Jesus Christ, it is to glorify Jesus Christ. Let me repeat that again, what indeed is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is one to guarantee the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. All the Scripture was given to us by the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God. That which is written is inspired. The writers were not inspired. The writers were controlled by the Holy Spirit. So what they wrote was indeed reliable and accurate. Secondly, the Holy Spirit gives eternal life to all who believe. But the third major work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ.

Turn, please to John, chapter 16. "And it is that about which I want to speak tonight, whether or not our lives indeed glorify Jesus Christ. In all we think and we say and we do." I read in the Gospel of John the words of Jesus Christ to his disciples the night before he went to the cross. And he talked a lot about the Holy Spirit and their need of him. In John 16, verse 7, he said, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away the helper or the comforter or the Holy Spirit will not come to you. But if I depart, I will send him to you. And when he has come," obviously to you, "he will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment." Notice the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer is to bring conviction to the world of nonbelievers.

He'll convict, verse 9 says, of sin. "Because they do not believe in me." Verse 10, he'll convict of righteousness. "Because I go to my Father and you'll see me no more." Verse 11, he'll convict

them of judgment. "Because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when he, the Spirit of Truth," literally in the Greek, it's the truth, "has come, he will guide you into all." And again in the Greek text, the definite article, "the": "He'll guide you into all the truth." I said the work of the Holy Spirit was to guarantee the reliability, accuracy of the Bible itself.

The Bible says that he would guide those men that heard Jesus Christ into all the truth. He either did it or he didn't. There can't be more truth if it is indeed all the truth. And those men, according to the Bible, were guided by the Holy Spirit into all the truth. That's speaking of the Bible itself, for he will not speak in his own authority.

The Holy Spirit does not speak independently. He does not talk out loud to anyone. He has spoken clearly. And finally, in the word of God itself, he will tell you things to come. Now look at verse 14. "He will glorify me, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are mine. Therefore I said that He'll take of mine and declare it to you."

Friends, the major ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer who's already saved, is simply to glorify Jesus Christ. Why do we need the Holy Spirit? To be Christ-like and controlled in all we say and do to glorify Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches that we need to renew our minds in this wonderful book that's like a mirror. And when we look into this mirror, according to 2 Corinthians 3:18, we will see the glory of the Lord. And as we look into it and view and understand the glory of the Lord, the Bible says, we are changed, transformed into the same image from glory, the glory that belongs to the Lord that we find in the word, to glory, meaning the glory that we will have. And it is done by the Holy Spirit of God.

I just quoted and expanded on 2 Corinthians 3:18, a very important verse. What is the ministry of the Spirit to glorify Jesus Christ? How does this actually happen? The Bible says, as we look into the mirror of God's Word, the Holy Spirit will transform us. The word "transform" in Greek, "metamorphosis."

You remember your high school biology if you indeed took it. You'll remember that metamorphosis is when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. And those who study metamorphosis know something about DNA. DNA, the essential properties of something from a chemical point of view. What is the DNA, friends, of a caterpillar? Most of its life, it looks like a caterpillar. Most of its life, it's in a caterpillar shell. But I ask you the question, do you know scientifically what the DNA is of a caterpillar? According to science, the DNA is a butterfly. It is not a caterpillar.

What is the DNA of a believer? We are brand new creatures in Christ. We are partakers of the divine nature. We are born again of the Spirit of God. To put it very bluntly and simply, if you are born again, if you're truly converted, then you're going to show it. You may be in a caterpillar shell. And a lot of us look at you and wonder if you really are a Christian. I find it's difficult today to tell the Christians from the lions without a scorecard. How about you? I find there are Christians who look like unbelievers and act like them. And I find there are some unbelievers who look like Christians.

So we have to be careful what we're saying. We don't want to use the lifestyle of somebody to prove that they're a Christian, even though if you're really a Christian, it will show in your lifestyle. For an example, on the same basis of faulty thinking, I could prove that our dog is a Christian. Our dog does not smoke or drink or go with girls to do. But our dog is not a believer, my friends, it's not simply how you program your life to look good.

See, a lot of us are good at this. We were raised in Christian churches and Christian families, and we know how to get along. We know the right vocabulary, especially the important words at the appropriate time to make folks really believe you are truly spirit filled. And so we've learned all of that. And we've assimilated into our lives.

And a lot of us do not know that we are simply DNA worms, not DNA new creatures in Christ. If we are butterflies, if the process of transformation is really going on in us, then we will do what I like to call leaking out glory every now and then. You're going to do something that people will look at you and say, Man, he has to be a believer to do that or they'll see you do something. Say, I really know him. And I'm surprised that he did that under that circumstance. It must be the Lord. Every now and then we leak out glory.

And I'll never forget what happened to me in a high school biology classroom. This teacher, bless his memory, made us every day file by this dumb looking worm and look at it every day and he'd get all excited. And I'll never forget the day when that little worm had a wing stick out through its shell. Just the wing of the butterfly stuck out and pulled it out. And the teacher was so excited, I thought he was really weird. We ought to send him to the funny farm. But anyway, he was excited. He said, did you see that? Yeah, it was just a wing. And he pulled it back in. It's still a worm. It's still a caterpillar show. That's the evidence that it's really a butterfly. That's the evidence that the DNA is a butterfly. And ever since I had that class, and I didn't really enjoy it, but that one thing stuck in my mind.

What I see happening in the believer's life is every now and then the little wing of the butterfly shoots out of the caterpillar shell. And somebody says, aha, they must be a Christian. But most of the time it looks like a shell of a caterpillar. And it's kind of hard to tell. What I'm saying is, if you are born again, you will leak out glory. You'll dribble it all over the place, because the Holy

Spirit of God will change you into the image of Jesus Christ so that you will say what Jesus would say in a situation. You will react to people like he would react. You will have that spirit about you that characterized our Lord and so beautifully is portrayed in the Beatitudes that we sang tonight.

When I ask myself the question, why do I need the Holy Spirit? Perhaps more than anything else, as I answer, as a believer, it's to be Christ-like. It's to live like the Lord. And it's to be controlled in all of my desires, which are usually bent away from God, not towards him. And when I look at the purpose of all this, which is to glorify Jesus Christ, I find that I have four basic problems as to why this doesn't happen in my life. Maybe this will help you.

Problem number one, I read about in the passage we read in Galatians, chapter 5. Go back there, please, in your Bibles, Galatians 5, and look at verse 16 and 17 again. I have four basic problems as to why I don't glorify Jesus Christ and why the Holy Spirit does not transform me into the image of Christ. Four basic problems, number one: Galatians, 5:16 and 17. The problem of lusting against the Holy Spirit. The problem of lusting against the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:16 says, "I say then, walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill or carry out the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. And these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish you say."

David, I want to serve the Lord. I want to honor in my life. I want to do what he wants me to do. The problem is, our natural tendency is to war and lust against the Holy Spirit's desire, which is to glorify Jesus Christ. And every one of us has the problem. We are lusting. We are fighting against the Spirit. We don't know it. It is a problem that we all have.

As a matter of fact, the fact that the problem exists is proof that you're a believer. If you can sin and it doesn't bother you, you can just do whatever you want and keep doing it. And it doesn't

affect you. And there's no sensitivity to God. You're giving evidence that you've never been born again.

Those who are born again have a war inside of them. The Holy Spirit is lusting against their natural sinful tendency that we call the flesh and vice versa. And it's a problem that we're all dealing with. There's a fight. There's a struggle.

And every time we are tempted to sin against God, the Spirit of God fights against us. And the true believer, when he sins, when he goes ahead and does it, the true believer is experiencing the misery that results from the Holy Spirit's work. Not too long ago, a man in his 30's told me that he did not experience any of that war whatsoever. He said, I believe I'm a Christian. But he said, I've never experienced that struggle. The longer I listen to him, I realized the problem.

I said, let me tell you something. If you do not have the struggle, I don't want to give you false comfort like you're really a born-again believer. I don't know, but it bothers me that you can continue to sin. And it doesn't bother you because people who are true believers know that when they continue in sin, they are grieved inside. They are hurt inside. They are disturbed inside.

Sometimes it's overreaction by anger. Sometimes it's pity or depression. Lots of things can happen, but that turmoil inside is what the Holy Spirit of God is causing. The Holy Spirit of God is lusting against your flesh. That means he wants control of your life. And so there's a war between you running your life and the Holy Spirit running your life.

The second problem that I have, and that you have, if you're a true believer is not only lusting against the Spirit, but is grieving the Holy Spirit. Grieving the Spirit. Turn, please to Ephesians chapter 5. Ephesians, chapter 5, chapter 4, rather, Verse 25. Chapter 4 verse 25: Grieving the Holy Spirit of God is a problem as to why we are not Christ-like and controlled in all that we do. Why the Holy Spirit is not conforming us to the person of Christ.

Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore, putting away lying, each one speaks truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole, steal no longer, but rather let him labor working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth. But what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking. Put away from you with all malice and be kind to one another, tenderhearted forgiving one another just as God in Christ has forgiven you."

I don't know more practical passage in the Bible. You know why we don't experience the transformation of the Holy Spirit? Because we're grieving him. How do we grieve him? Hey, there's a great summary in verse 31. These are all sins of attitude, disposition, spirit, anger, wrath. You get ticked off. You can't handle things. Somebody says something to you you don't like and you blow off. You say, hey, that's just what I'm like. Take it or leave it. Hey, we'd rather leave it.

We need to be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God so that we don't fly off the handle. So bitterness and resentment is not in our hearts. Clamor, evil speaking, talking down about people putting them down, cutting them, slicing them and having them for lunch. That supposedly is a game Christians play, but it's not the game people play who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Why are we having trouble in being conformed to what Christ wants in our life, being Christ-like or controlled in our life? Why are we having a problem with that?

Because we grieve the Holy Spirit by our attitudes. The third problem that we have turned to one Thessalonians chapter four as to why we are not Christlike and controlled when the Holy Spirit

of God has promised it. 1 Thessalonians rather, chapter 4, beginning at verse 3. Four problems as to why we are not filled with the Holy Spirit and conformed to the image of Christ.

One is lusting against the Spirit. Two is grieving the Holy Spirit, and number three is rejecting the will of God about my sexual desires, rejecting the will of God about my sexual desires. A chaplain in a Christian University recently did a series of messages that I'm familiar with this fall on sexual immorality and the body of Christ when he told me what happened to him in that Christian College. Because of what he said, I was absolutely astounded but reminded again that things have really changed in our culture, not with God, but in our culture.

Carol and I have written a number of books together. One, good marriages take time, bad marriages take more time. Two, romantic lovers, which is about sex and marriage from Song of Solomon. Our heads are not in the sand. We're currently writing a third one for the secular marketplace called sexual fantasy and human survival.

And what is it about? The basic thesis is who would have thought that the sexual revolution of the 60s has become the sexual nightmare potential of the 90s?

We are reaping what we have sown I just read a study of cancer in the life of young women, a study that was just released by the American Institute of Health.

It used to be that cancer of the cervix was a problem that women would face late in their life, not early in their life. Today, the number one decade among women for cancer in that way is 20 to 29. And it's a result of sexual promiscuity.

And there are worse problems than that. You know that. And I know that they glare at us almost every day on our headlines and people like, Is there a problem? There is a serious problem, and you know that. And I know that this isn't a Prophet of doom, screaming out that we're all going to hell and we don't have any hope.

This isn't a Prophet of doom. This is simply facts, realism. But my dear friends, if I had none of that, no evidence about the sexually transmitted diseases. If I had none of that, there should be one reason why we are celibate, one reason why we have no sex outside of marriage. And that's because it's the will of God.

That's because God says no, because he wants us to be supremely happy, and he knows what we need far better than we do. And he knows how to sustain your sexual happiness all the days of your life. And he says, you better stick to marriage. I read in one Thessalonians four these amazing words, verse three, for this is the will of God, your sanctification, which means to be separate, that you should abstain from sexual immorality, that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God, that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the Avenger of all such as we also forewarned you and testified for God did not call us to uncleanness, but in Holiness.

Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God who has given us His Holy Spirit.

What is the problem as to why we are not experiencing the fullness of the Spirit's power? Why do we not experiences Christ's likeness in our life? And God's answer is because we're rejecting the will of God, the will of God about staying away from sexual sin. And I appeal to you in the name of our Lord and on the authority of God's Word. And on the basis of the fact that you want to be used in your life for Christ, I appeal with you as Apostle Paul did, to stay away from sexual sin.

No, it is not okay to do it before marriage or after you're married with somebody beside your spouse. Yes, the Bible is clear, very clear. Point blank, blunt and says it many, many times the

most often repeated sin in the Bible in all the list of sins is sexual immorality. Wonder why that is. Is it not the reason that God knows us better than we know ourselves?

He knows our needs, knows what we need and how to be fulfilled. He's not against sex. He wants us to be supremely happy, and he knows how you can be. The Bible tells us that that is within the context of marriage and marriage alone. There's commitment.

There's trust, responsibility and accountability that cannot exist in any other relationship. People have tried for a number of years now to live together as though somehow that could be. They say things like What's a marriage license. It's just a piece of paper. They don't want a ceremony.

They say it's not necessary. And the arguments go on and on. And yet the bottom line has always been commitment, a vow that you have spoken before two or three witnesses to whom you are now accountable for what you have said. But they have bypassed that and tried to find happiness. Now, after a study of thousands of young adults who have lived together, they are now telling us that it is a colossal failure.

It does not work. Point blank does not work. Don't come up afterwards and tell me about somebody you knew that lived together for seven years, then got married and supremely happy.

Let me tell you something. The exceptions are so few, they don't even deserve to be mentioned.

The problem is that we have lost sight of why God said what he did, not to keep us from having fun, not to destroy our sexual potential, but to make us live life to the fullest, under the power and control of the Holy Spirit. Believe me, I know what I'm talking about. It is only those who remain faithful within the marital bond who understand what I'm saying. We meet couples all the time who have lived so many years in marriage, but because of unfaithfulness do not have the sexual vitality.

When I was in my 20s, people said, Will you just wait when you get in your 30s, you'll understand something I got in my 30s.

I still didn't understand. They said, Wait, do you get in your 40s? And I'm not going to keep going on because it's none of your business.

But the greatest advice I ever got was from a couple that Carol and I knew well and we have traveled with. They are now in their 80s, and they have never seemed that way to us. They've always seemed like they were young. We could not believe their age, even when we hear it today. But that dear couple told us that sexual vitality and joy and satisfaction never needs to die in anybody's marriage that they were more happy in their 70s and 80s sexually than they ever will ever when they young.

Why? Because they walked with God and stayed away from sexual sin. There's no reason there's no reason that we have to buy the arguments of the world, none whatsoever. You buy the argument of God and you will have joy all of your marital days. If marriage is for you, God's given you that desire, then do what the Bible says and be celibate until you are married.

If God's designed you for a single state, then you don't have any problems. Right? Wrong.

The single scene today is absolutely mind boggling. The opportunities for sexual involvement are everywhere and everybody's going along with it. Where are the Christians who say no?

Where are the Christians who say it is the will of God to stay away from it and it will hinder the power of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Problem number four and finally turn to first Thessalonians chapter five. You're in chapter four, move to chapter five and look at verse 16. There are four problems as to why we are not controlled by the Holy Spirit and we don't become Christlike. One is lusting against the Spirit.

Two is grieving the Spirit. Three is rejecting the will of God about sexual desire and four is quenching the Holy Spirit. First, Thessalonians 5:16 says Rejoice always.

Even when you have a flat on the freeway during the traffic, rejoice always pray without ceasing in everything. Give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus. For you do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies that's. Talking about the Word of God, by the way, test all things.

Hold fast what is good and abstain from every form of evil. What a powerful passage. How do we quench the Spirit? By the way, the Greek text literally means stop quenching the Spirit.

The point is that it's our natural tendency to quench the Spirit, to throw water on him and you wonder why we're not effective. Why is the Holy Spirit not using us like he promises in the Bible? One of the reasons quenching the Spirit pouring water on the fire and power of the Holy Spirit of God. Three things are evident in your life. If you're not quenching the Spirit, you can tell somebody whose Spirit filled.

I believe in the simple three point outline of one Thessalonians five number one. They are continually rejoicing. Philippians four four says Rejoice always and again I say rejoice a number one way to tell when you're filled with the Spirit and God is controlling you. Is there's a Spirit of joy in your heart and inward joyfulness to God? No matter even if all Hell's breaking out around you, you've got joy in the Lord.

There is rejoicing in Christ. Secondly, there's constant prayer. People who are filled with the Holy Spirit and are controlled by God in their life. There's a Spirit of prayer in their life. When an issue comes up, they immediately want to pray.

When they're with some friend who shares a burden, they immediately say, Why don't we just have a word of prayer right now about that? Because they know that only God can answer

prayer. They don't trust human methods or agencies or resources. They get on their knees and pray. Why?

Because they're filled with the Holy Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit of God glorifies Jesus Christ. A third thing that will be true of everyone who does not quench the Spirit is there will be comprehensive Thanksgiving in your life. In everything in every way, you will constantly be thanking the Lord even when it's in category bad, even when it doesn't appear to you to be a blessing you thank God for everything because you know he's in charge.

He's working all things for His glory. And so you praise Him. My friends if you are controlled by the Holy Spirit of God, there are four things that you've got to get a hold of lusting against the Spirit, grieving the Spirit, rejecting the will of God about sexual desire and quenching the Holy Spirit. The whole product that'll come out of our life, according to Galatians, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. There will be love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness goodness, faith, meekness and self control.

If we are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, let's close with prayer.

Father, I thank you and I praise you for the opportunity that we have in this Bible conference to just take a break for a little bit and look at some issues that a lot of us have looked at many times before. But to refresh our memories and our hearts with what the Bible actually says about the Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

God, I thank you that Salvation is of God that we are born again by the Holy Spirit. I know if it was left up to us, we'd make a mess of it. We never would come to the Lord. I thank you, Lord, for your power that brings people to Jesus Christ and Lord. I thank you too, that the Holy Spirit of God was given to us to give us victory over sinful habits.

If we walk by means of the Spirit, you tell us will not carry out the lust of the flesh. I thank you, Lord, for exposing in the word of God the basic problems that we have as Christians as we fight and struggle against the work of the Holy Spirit. Oh, God, I pray that you'd purify the believers, you'd cleanse our hearts. Thank you that you're a God of forgiveness.

We remember that the Proverbs tell us if we confess and forsake our sin, we'll find compassion. But if we cover it, we will not prosper. Give us an honesty and integrity. Lord, before you a willingness to see every day that we can't go on another day without you. May there be a new sense of our dependency upon the power of the Holy Spirit within us to be all that you want us to be.

And we'll thank you and praise you for that in Jesus wonderful name, spirit of the living God Amen. Ron starts at eight. We have seven minutes for whatever you need. And we start with Kennedy at eight. God bless you.