



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 1—The Holy Spirit: God in Us

As we continue examining the resources that God provides for His children so that we can not only heal from the inner wounds that life has dealt us but also move towards a quality of life that far surpasses what any non-believer can possibly achieve (John 10:10), we turn our attention now to the marvelous gift of the Holy Spirit. What a key role He plays in making this possible!

Immediately upon salvation every New Testament believer receives the Holy Spirit, who unites with his own spirit, bringing it to life and connecting it with God (Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:17). While the incarnation of Christ brought God to dwell among us, the impartation of the Holy Spirit brings God to dwell *in us!* This means that *we carry the character and the power of God within us every moment of our lives.*

The indwelling Holy Spirit is like having a divine “battery pack” that is able to turn our lives from ordinary to extraordinary, from natural to supernatural (Eph. 3:20). Unfortunately, this incredible potential lies dormant or grossly underused in way too many of God's children. All the benefits He is able to bring into our lives can only be activated if we make a deliberate effort to turn the focus of our minds onto Him (Rom. 8:5-6). When we do this, He Himself enables us to overpower the natural desires of the flesh, which is our default operating system (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:16). Otherwise, the Holy Spirit is quenched, and we live a defeated life dictated by the flesh and dominated by its ungodly attributes (1 Thes. 5:19; Gal. 5:16-21).

God's gracious gift of the Holy Spirit to every believer dramatically changed the dynamics for godly living. In Old Testament times those who were loyal to God had to follow an external rulebook, the Law, in order to know how to live righteously. These external, guiding rules were actually given to show man how utterly unable he was to achieve God's standard of righteousness on his own (Gal. 3:19-24). After Christ became our complete sacrifice for sin and the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, we were freed from trying to fulfill an impossible, external standard of righteousness. Instead, we were given a portion of God Himself, who is perfectly righteous by His very nature, to live within us. When we do not quench Him, *His righteousness is expressed through us*, enabling us to live a quality of life never possible through the Law. We now need only to follow the internal impulse of the Holy Spirit rather than the external rulebook of the Law (Rom. 7:6; 8:2-4; 2 Cor. 3:6; Gal. 5:18).

The life that we experience by allowing the Holy Spirit to emanate His own nature through us is characterized, first and foremost, by the dynamic of love, as this is one of God's foremost attributes (Rom. 5:5; 1 John 4:7-8). This will be accompanied by a radiance of joy and peace as well as a natural tendency to interact with people in a way that is kind and gentle, good and faithful. We will also have the ability to control the errant desires and passions of the flesh that would lead us to unhealthy manners of living (Gal. 5:22-23). What a blessing that we don't have to work to muster up these characteristics! We just have to submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit, and they will naturally flow out of us! Nothing could enhance the quality of our lives more than this; yet it lies as a dormant resource in so many believers' lives.

The role of the Holy Spirit in us goes far beyond being our source of righteousness, as wonderful as that is. He is also a permanently attached, divine personal assistant who is constantly at our beck and call to help us in whatever way we need (John 14:16). What a gift that He, like Jesus, came not to be served but to serve (Mat. 20:28)! Because of His divinity, He knows just what we need at any given moment. With this intimate knowledge He can minister to us as a supernatural comforter, counselor, guide, or source of strength or anointing (Psalm 32:8; Prov. 3:6; John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:4; 2 Cor. 1:3-5; Eph. 3:16). He can also pray for us to the Father with a passion that is beyond words (Rom. 8:26-27).