

A NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Yesterday you were prayed with. Today is a new day. You may feel a new joy, a new peace, a praise of God welling up within you. You may feel doubt, a feeling that you made a fool of yourself last night, a feeling of confusion or depression. You may even feel all of those things at once. But the life of the Spirit is not based on feelings.

Today is the day to begin a new life in faith. If you committed your life to Christ and asked him to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, then you were baptized in the Spirit. You may feel any number of things, but you made a new beginning last night. Now you must live that new beginning in faith.

Consider the facts. When you are baptized in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is in you in a new way. You are not yet fully controlled by the Holy Spirit, you still have to grow into the life of the Spirit, but he is in you in a new way.

Satan is also concerned with you in a new way. Since you now have more spiritual power you are more dangerous to him, and he would like to stop you. After Jesus was baptized he entered into spiritual battle in a new way (Luke 4:1-13). In the same way, now that you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you enter into spiritual battle in a new way.

Suppose a friend of yours wanted to get into a certain room, and he came to you and you gave him a key. Now suppose that someone wants to keep your friend from getting into that room. He has the key, and nothing should stop him from entering. But if he can be convinced that he does not really have the key, then he may never use it, and he would not get into the room. Now that you have been baptized in the Spirit Satan will try to make you think it was not real or that it did not happen to you. That's his number one tactic.

His number two tactic is just the opposite. His number two tactic is to convince you that now that you have the Holy Spirit you are all set. Your problems are gone, you don't need anything or anyone else. He will try to make you think you do not need to pray, you do not need to learn how to live in the Spirit, you do not need the help of other Christians. If you see a train of thought like that starting to go through your mind, beware. You are being built up for a fall.

Have no fear. Simply put your faith in God. Resist all doubts and anxieties. Let the joy and peace and praise of God fill you. In humility begin to learn from God and from your brothers and sisters how to live the life of the Spirit. Remember that you are only a beginner.

Do not let the gift of tongues worry you. If you did not pray in tongues last night, just look for it to happen. It could happen almost anytime. If you said something last night but are not sure whether it was tongues or not, keep on saying it. If it was tongues, it will grow and develop. If it was not tongues, it can turn into tongues. If you did pray in tongues but it sounds like stuttering, keep on doing it. It will grow and develop

Pray in tongues every day. It will grow in value for you.

You need the Life in the Spirit Seminars now more than you did before. The lessons of the next two weeks, and the following program 'New Way of Life', are very important. Now that you have been baptized in the Spirit, you need to grow in the life of Spirit. If you are having any difficulties or are unsure what has happened, Satan will try hard to keep you away from other Christians. Do not let him talk you out of attending any of the the seminars in the coming weeks. God loves you. He wants you to live in union with him. Living the life of the Spirit is very simple: listen to God's word, put your faith in it and obey it. He will lead you.