

Seek Christ's Transforming Power
(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, September 19, 2021)

Become more like the Lord Jesus each day...

Romans 12;1-8

12 I beseech[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your [b]reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **4** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; **7** or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

We are to serve. We should not seek to be put on a pedestal and be served by others.

Acts 20:33-35

33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. **34** [i]Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. **35** I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Paul was often what is called a tent maker: He often supported himself by making tents.

Acts 18:1-4

18 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. **2** And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to

depart from Rome); and he came to them. **3** So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. **4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

It is true that ministers are allowed to make a salary for their work in the ministry.

(1 Timothy 5:17-18

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. **18** For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer *is* worthy of his wages.”)

However, choosing, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, not to take advantage of that privilege in order to bless others is one way to earn additional eternal rewards in heaven...

1 Corinthians 9:3-15,18

3 My defense to those who examine me is this: **4** Do we have no [b]right to eat and drink? **5** Do we have no right to take along [c]a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? **6** Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working? **7** Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

8 Do I say these things as a *mere* man? Or does not the law say the same also? **9** For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? **10** Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. **11** If we have sown spiritual things for you, *is it* a great thing if we reap your material things? **12** If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. **13** Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat *of the things* of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of *the offerings of the altar*? **14** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it *would be* better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void. **16** For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the

gospel! **17** For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. **18** What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel [d]of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

We can't fulfill our ministry on our own...

Philippians 4:12-13

12 I know how to [d]be abased, and I know how to [e]abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through [f]Christ who strengthens me.

The more of God we have, the more effective we will be at advancing God's Kingdom...

Acts 1:4-8

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; **5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer...

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body [g]and in your spirit, which are God's.

However, having the Holy Spirit live inside of you and being immersed or baptized in the Holy Spirit are two different experiences...

Acts 2:36-47

36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [k]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

A Vital Church Grows

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this [l]perverse generation.” **41** Then those who [m]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ [n]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and [o]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[p] them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [q]to the church daily those who were being saved.

People were baptized on the day of Pentecost, but there is no mention of them being baptized in the Holy Spirit...

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit makes you stronger spiritually.

Jude 1:20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

The evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Tongues are languages that no one taught you...

Acts 19:1-7

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples **2** he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?”

So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

4 Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. **7** Now the men were about twelve in all.

So we see here that these disciples were first baptized in water. Then they were baptized in the Holy Spirit when the apostle Paul laid hands on them...

Our church believes in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, just like we believe in miracles...

We are going to start giving spiritual prayer treatments for the baptism in the Holy Spirit just like we do for healing and societal spiritual awakening in order to give more people the opportunity to receive a greater anointing or empowerment by the Holy Spirit...