

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN RENEWAL

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The Work of the Holy Spirit in Renewal is What We Need Today in Our Lives and Schools

When God created the heavens and the earth, all were perfect, even man/woman, created in His image.

When man listened to Satan, and disobeyed God, sin entered the world, and spoilt everything that God had created that was good. Relationships were broken:

- (a) Spiritual – man and God Gen 3:8-10
- (b) Psychological – man himself Gen 3:7
- (c) Social – man and man Gen 3:12-13
- (d) Creation – man and environment Gen 3:17-19

Because of this, God, in His grace, worked to bring the creation, and His image, back to Himself. He would use the life of Jesus: Gen 3:15.

Definitions of the Term “Renewal”

For spiritual renewal to take place, it must begin with conversion, being born again, and bring back to life the spirit that was spoiled (John 3:3, 5, 7). Jesus said, “I am telling you the truth: No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again” (GNB).

The act of transforming one’s life, leaving the old nature, and putting on the new life given by Jesus, in His grace. It is a free gift that one has to receive.

Eph 2:8-9: “For is it by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.”

2 Cor 5:17 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.”

So, conversion is the number one mark for a Christian life. Only the Holy Spirit can bring this about.

Spiritual renewal is allowing God to daily take control of our lives, allowing Jesus to be the Lord of everything, and, in all circumstances, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, and work in our hearts and lives. Then it should show in outward practical living. It should have an impact on our relationships, which have been spoilt:

- (a) a spiritual desire to love more;
- (b) taking control of ourselves – Jesus is the Lord of my life;
- (c) with others – socially: do to them as Christ has done to me;
- (d) be responsible to care for, and be good stewards of, God’s creation.

But, if it’s not so, then we need to be revived, or renewed, that is, to make it new again, refreshed to the nature of the spirit, allowing, and desiring, God, the Holy Spirit, to transform our mind, spirit, and every aspect of life.

Nehemiah, a man who had a heart for the city of God, seeing it in ruin, humbled himself, cried out to God, called the people together, risked his life, and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. With God, they finished the work.

The gospel has power to change the lives of other people, but it must be experienced in my life first, so that I can talk from reality, and not from uncertainty, or with a duty to fulfil.

The Holy Spirit is God, and He is Working Today: He Can’t be Seen with Eyes

In the life of the early church, when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8), it changed the whole of history. The disciples experienced power, and, in Jerusalem, 3,000 believers came into the church. The gospel later moved to Judea and Samaria. They were bold enough to stand against the authority, obeying God, rather than man (Acts 5:29). The Holy Spirit moved to the Gentiles (Acts 8:4), and to the ends of the world (Acts 13).

Paul, with his calling, and conversion experience, served God, as the Holy Spirit led his life. He wasn't following a structure, or a system, but real life experiences with the work of the Holy Spirit.

The life of a true disciple is one that bears fruit (John 15:8).

- (a) Fruit can be good deeds, what we do to help others (Matt 5:16);
- (b) Fruit of the Holy Spirit, in terms of a desire for a godly character, are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23). These were all seen in Paul's life. Why?

"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal 2:20).

It is the knowing, being, and doing that all come together to accomplish our given goal, the great commission (Matt 28:19-20). "And this good news about the kingdom will be preached through all the world, for a witness to all mankind, and then the end will come" (Matt 24:14).

Our mandate is to preach the good news, as a testimony to the world, before the end of world.

The work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is to bring renewal, change him from one degree to another, to become more like Christ. "In view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, His good, pleasing, and perfect will" (Rom 12:1-2).

Rom 6:14 A spirit-controlled person will not allow sin to be his master. God requires each Christian to live a quality life, a life with determination, to do what is right.

Tit 2:11-12

1 Tim. 6:6 In God's grace, say "no" to ungodliness, and worldly passions, but live a godly life, with contentment, upright and self controlled, in this present life.

1 John 1:9 If we sin, then confess, God's promise is to forgive, cleanse, and purify us from wrong doings.

The Holy Spirit continues to work in us all:

- (i) John 14:16 Comforter
- (ii) John 14:17 Truthfulness
- (iii) John 14:26 Teaches us all things about God
- (iv) John 15:26 Testifies about truth
- (v) John 16:9 Reproves the world of sin, righteousness and judgment
- (vi) Acts 1:8 Power to do God's work
- (vii) Acts 4:31 Preach with boldness
- (x) Rom 5:5 Love for God
- Rom 8:26-28 Praying and intercession

Conclusion

God's desire is for His image in us to be restored, through conversion, and to allow His Holy Spirit to work in our whole being: the knowing, being, and doing, aspects of our relationship with God.

The work of sanctification continues each day, to make us more like Jesus in our character. The Holy Spirit enables us to live a godly life; to be a light, and draw all men unto Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the only one we need to do God's work in this world.