

New Heart And New Spirit

5-10-20

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (ESV)

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Our salvation includes two very distinct miracles. #1 We are forgiven, we are cleansed, we are given a pure heart from God. #2 We are transformed and empowered, we are given the Holy Spirit. It is Jesus who brings the fulfillment of a new heart and a new Spirit! Jesus tries to explain this to the religious teacher, Nicodemus, but he didn't understand.

John 3:9-10

⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

Basically, Jesus is saying, “You claim to be a Bible teacher, but you don't understand Ezekiel 36:26-27!” Jesus then tells Nicodemus about being born again and how to receive the Holy Spirit that transforms and empowers. Jesus finishes HIS explanation with John 3:16.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 is a beautiful verse proclaiming God's love, our forgiveness of sin through Jesus, and our eternal home in heaven. **But also**, this verse proclaims receiving the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. **Receiving the Holy Spirit was not a side issue with Jesus.** Receiving the Holy Spirit is central to being able to live out our Christian life with authority and power. Let us take a closer look at Ezekiel:

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God specifically says, "I will," four different times! The fourth "I will" God says HE will put HIS Spirit within us! With this magnificent statement, God then tells us why HE will put HIS Spirit in us. God says HIS Spirit will "cause us" to do all that God desires. **Pay special attention to the word "cause" as stated in verse 27.** *Cause is a very important word! It literally means to cause, to prompt, or move us. This means the Spirit within us will cause, prompt, or to move us impacting our behavior. We will not live by an outside list of rules, but we will live by an inner transformation and power through the work of the Holy Spirit. This is what Romans says: Romans 7:6 (ESV)

We serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Galatians says it is the Spirit who will actually lead us to do the things God desires:

Galatians 5:18 (ESV)

If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Therefore, we must keep in step with the Holy Spirit's lead.

Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

The New English Bible translates this verse: "If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct our course." **By means of the Spirit believers are to enact and engage the life they already have in the Spirit.** There are three things I have learned over the years that are necessary to enact and engage the power of the Holy Spirit.

#1 Ask, pure and simple, I have seen this work time and time again in every type of situation. Simply Ask!

Luke 11:13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**

#2 Be Occupied with the Holy Spirit!

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The literal Greek word "walk" used here never means physically walk. It means to be "occupied with".

It is like saying, “I will walk with you in this difficulty.” In Heb.13:9 this word is translated “occupied with” in the NASB. Thus, to “walk by the Spirit” means to be “occupied with the Spirit”! **Therefore, being “occupied with” the Holy Spirit will enact and engage the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

#3 Engage in the ministry of Jesus.

Acts 4:7-8

⁷ And when they had set the disciples in the midst of the rules and elders, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸ Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit, said!**

Participating in the ministry of sharing Jesus Christ enacts and engages the Power of the Holy Spirit. **For example, many of us have experienced relevant words or Scripture “coming to mind” when we have shared Christ with someone.** Hopefully these three points are helpful. But please understand, I am not saying this is the only way to actively participate in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. However, the believer’s life is a life of power. My prayer is that these points can assist you to embrace the empowering of the Holy Spirit. **Remember the Holy Spirit is important to Jesus.** With forgiveness and eternal life comes the Holy Spirit with all HIS transforming Power. **Jesus wants us to live in the Power of the Holy Spirit!**

John 3:16 (ESV)

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