

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

C. H. SPURGEON

“Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” - Galatians 3:3.

YES, we are just so foolish. Folly is bound up not only in the heart of a child, but in the heart of even a child of God; and though the rod may be said to bring folly out of a child, it will take many a repetition of the rod of affliction upon the shoulders of a Christian before that folly is taken out of him. I suppose we are all of us very sound as a matter of theory upon this point. If any should ask us how we hope to have our salvation worked in us, we should without the slightest hesitation aver our belief that salvation is of the Lord alone, and we should declare that, as the Holy Spirit first of all commenced our piety in us, we look alone to his might to continue and to preserve, and at last to perfect the sacred work. I say we are sound enough on that point as a matter of theory, but we are all of us very heretical and unsound as a matter of practice; for alas! you will not find a Christian who does not have to mourn over his self-righteous tendencies; you will not discover a believer who has not at certain periods in his life, to groan because the spirit of self-confidence has risen in his heart, and prevented him from feeling the absolute necessity of the Holy Spirit - has led him to put his confidence in the mere strength of nature, the strength of good intentions, the strength of strong resolutions, instead of relying upon the might of God the Holy Spirit alone. This one thing I know, brethren, that whilst as a preacher I can tell you all, that the Holy Spirit must work all our works in us, and that without him we can do nothing, yet as a man I find myself tempted to deny my own preachings, not in my words, but to deny them in fact by endeavoring to do deeds without looking first to the Holy Spirit. Whilst I should never be unsound in the didactic part of it, yet in that part which concerns the working of it out, in common with all that love the Lord Jesus, but who are still subject to the infirmities of flesh and blood, I have to groan that I repeatedly find myself, having begun in the Spirit, seeking to be made perfect in the flesh. Yes, we are just as foolish as that; and my brethren, it is well for us if we have a consciousness that we are foolish, for when a man is

foolish and knows it, there is the hope that he will one day be wise: to know one's-self to be foolish is to stand upon the doorstep of the temple of wisdom; to understand the wrongness of any position is half way towards amending it; to be quite sure that our self-confidence is a heinous sin and folly, and an offense towards God, and to have that thought burned into us by God's Holy Spirit, is going a great length towards the absolute casting our self-confidence away, and the bringing of our souls in practice, as well as in theory, to rely wholly upon the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Ready for the Spirit

Billy Graham

Are you living a “subnormal” Christian life — a life that is ineffective, lukewarm, and lacking in love for Christ and for others? Let God the Holy Spirit bring you in humility to God, confessing sin and seeking His face. Let Him touch you as you yield yourself to Him. The greatest need in the world today is for fully committed Christians.

Over 100 years ago, two young men were talking in Ireland. One said, “The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to Him.” The other man meditated on that thought for weeks. It so gripped him that one day he exclaimed, “By the Holy Spirit in me I'll be that man.” Historians now say that he touched two continents for Christ. His name was Dwight L. Moody.

This can happen again, as we open our lives to the recreating power of the Holy Spirit. No person can seek sincerely the cleansing and blessing of the Holy Spirit, and remain the same afterward. No nation can experience the touch of awakening in its midst, and remain the same afterward.

Pentecost was the day of power of the Holy Spirit. It was the day the Christian Church was born.

We do not expect that Pentecost will be repeated any more than that Jesus will die on the cross again. But we do expect pentecostal blessings when the conditions for God's moving are met, and especially as we approach “the latter days.” We as Christians are to prepare the way. We are to be ready for the Spirit to fill and use us.

Billy Graham, *The Holy Spirit*, last four paragraphs

HOLY SPIRIT EXIST

Most Christians in the United States do not believe that the Holy Spirit is a living force. Fifty-eight percent strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement that the Holy Spirit is “a symbol of God's power or presence but is not a living entity.”

Interestingly, about half (49 percent) of those who agreed that the Holy Spirit is only a symbol but not a living entity, agreed that the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches. The Bible states that the Holy Spirit is God's power or presence, not just symbolic.

Barna Research Group



BACK-TO-GOD PROGRAM

World War II ended in Europe on MAY 7, 1945, when German emissaries met at General Dwight Eisenhower's Headquarters, a schoolhouse in Reims, France, and signed an unconditional surrender. The War in Europe lasted five and half years, costing millions of lives. After the war, Eisenhower was elected the 34th President by the largest number of votes in history. In remarks broadcast from the White House as part of The American Legion “Back-to-God” Program, February 7, 1954, President Eisenhower stated: “As a former soldier, I am delighted that our veterans are sponsoring a movement to increase our awareness of God in our daily lives. In battle, they learned a great truth—that there are no atheists in the foxholes. They know that in time of test and trial, we instinctively turn to God for new courage ... Whatever our individual church, whatever our personal creed, our common faith in God is a common bond among us.” At the next year's “Back-to-God” Program, February 20, 1955, Eisenhower stated:

“Without God, there could be no American form of Government, nor an American way of life.

Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first -the most basic- expression of Americanism.”

Forrás: Internet



GÉZA ORBAN
 12/27/1921 - 3/1/2009

Géza was born in Carteret, New Jersey and attended the Hungarian Baptist Church in Carteret. His parents, *Joseph and Elizabeth Orban* were dedicated Christians who sacrificed a lot to establish a church for Hungarians who were arriving in large numbers in America.

The Orban family had nine children and they all took an active part in the life of the church. Geza enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp and was decorated for Valor and the Purple Heart. When he returned from the Marines he married *Esther Reeves (Révész)* the daughter of the late *Rev. László Révész* who was the founder of the Bethesda Old People's Home in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Géza worked as a chief electrician for General Motors and Sherwin Williams. They lived in Elyria, Ohio and after retirement moved to Boise, Idaho and were members of the First Baptist Church, Masonic organization and the DAV.

Géza's parents were faithful in rearing their family in the Christian faith and they are all serving God in their area. *Irene, Helen and Joseph, Jr.* preceded Géza in going home to our Lord. He leaves his wife, *Esther*, brother *John*, and sisters *Betty Haydn, Ruth Cziraky, Rose Mahl and Mary Csete* plus two children and one great granddaughter.

Géza and the entire Orban family will be remembered as the pioneers of the Hungarian Baptist Church in Carteret and their dedicated service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ethel Petre Kish

CHEATING

GENTLEMEN:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$150. I cheated on my income tax return last year and have not been able to sleep ever since. If I still have trouble sleeping, I'll send you the rest.

Sincerely, _____

This note was actually received by the Internal Revenue Service some time ago. We chuckle because the sender was willing to be honest *up to a point* . . . just far enough to help relieve his guilty conscience . . . just far enough to help his sleep to return . . . but not far enough to make a clean break.

Philip Bailey, the nineteenth-century poet, once made this stabbing statement:

The first and worst of all frauds is to cheat oneself.

All sin is easy after that.

To cheat one's self. Really, that lies at the heart of *every* human act of deception. The traveling businessman who pads his account or misrepresents his production is cheating himself, not his company. The student who takes his exam in a dishonest fashion cheats himself, not his school. The wife who carries on an illicit affair with a secret lover isn't cheating on her husband but on herself. The salesman who violates the rights and confidence of others by withholding information or exaggerating beyond the truth is cheating himself, not the buyer. The writer who lifts the writings of another and inserts them into his own manuscript without giving professional credit cheats himself, not his reader.

Bailey suggests that such frauds tear so large a hole into our moral fiber that "all sin is easy after that." Bailey speaks the truth. Once we have opened the door to Bluebeard's secret chamber and begin to feel comfortable amidst the torture of a murdered conscience, we can easily handle anything our old nature comes up with.

Ask Adolf Eichmann. Once he learned to tolerate the starvation scenes of central Poland, the gas chambers of Dachau and Auschwitz were easy to handle. When you can starve a few Jews to death without feeling, it's no big thing to slaughter them by the millions.

Ask Spiro Agnew. Once he learned to live with himself as a mayor who compromised with close, rich friends of big business, the office of vice president didn't slow him down. Cheating on a small-time basis didn't stop when he got promoted . . . it accelerated.

The guy who has his hand in the petty cash today will be the crook in the books tomorrow. This is true, of course, unless he counteracts his dishonest bent.

God gives us the key in Ephesians 4:20-25 that unlocks the secret of overcoming our bent to cheat. After telling us the importance of laying aside the old self (which is corrupted with the "lusts of deceit"), He says we are to put on the "new self"—to let the renewed spirit of our minds take charge! And what is step one in that process? Verse 25 spells it out. *The New Living Translation* says:

Stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth.

Stop lying to yourself, first, then to others, second. Honestly admit that cheating is self-deception, that the big-

gest loss is suffered by *you*, not by others. Refuse to rationalize or excuse or defend your cheating another day. And never forget that a person who hangs around Christians and looks the part of a dedicated saint can be a cheater right down to the core.

Judas is the classic example. He stole from his buddies even though they trusted him with the money (John 12:6). He was the one who bargained with Jesus's enemies and betrayed Him with a deceptive kiss. But the saddest fact of all is this: Judas cheated *himself*, not the Savior nor the disciples.

Having a problem sleeping because you are uneasy about your dishonesty? Wonderful! You ought to be glad you can't sleep. It's the cheater who *sleeps* who's really got a problem worth losing sleep over!

Charles R. Swindoll

Prince of Peace Baptist Church
 Sierra Leone, West Africa

LETTER OF APPRECIATION / GRATITUDE

On behalf of the Church congregation I am directed to write a letter of appreciation and gratitude for your timely intervention in our church building.

The church was founded in 1994 in a predominantly Muslim denominated region in Makeni. The congregation has moved from place to place in search of a permanent settlement for a church. We have finally bought a piece of land and have started to build a church.

We are very much grateful for the coming of Rev. Kamilla Furedi to Sierra Leone and particularly to Makeni through whom we have been receiving your marvelous donations.

We are pleased to inform you that we have received the sum of total support of \$7,125 in the past year 2008.

May the Good God richly bless you all in all your undertakings.

Thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,
Rev. Francis B. Kamara Pastor
 (+ two more signers)

Making a will? Don't forget about the Convention, our Hungarian mission.

Végrendeletet készít?

Ne feledkezzen el

Szövetségünkről, az amerikai magyar baptista misszióról.