

SRM140626/8/2014

5 “Pass It On: Restoration”

Attention: Are you looking forward to Summertime?

Most of you will admit to doing so.

But there is another summertime that many people also look for that has nothing to do with the weather.

It is an inner summertime of the heart.

It is the renewal we often yearn for that relieves the burdensome feeling of much of daily living.

In our series, “Pass It On”, we are considering six basic elements of our Christian worldview to “Pass on” to children and others. We started with God's Revelation in the Bible's Sufficiency, Clarity, Authority and Necessity.

Then, God's Creation of the world and everything in it, including human beings, in His image, which should lead us to worship and serve Him above all else. Then, what the Bible says about Sin, Death, humanity's fall, and regeneration.

Last week, What God by Jesus Christ Did to redeem people lost in sin: Redemption.

This morning's message has to do with the work of the Holy Spirit in changing a converted, redeemed person: Restoration and sanctification.

The Bible says, (2 Cor. 5:17) (ESV) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

How does one get a New Life of courage, strength, hope and joy?

It is the work of the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit of God.

Our church's Affirmation of Faith says, “We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide”

His work can be summed up in the words, “restoration,” “Sanctification” and “Renewal.”

This morning I want to focus on the New Life that Christ gives us by the Holy Spirit: [1] “How important is it?” [2] “What does it look like?”, and [3] How does it happen?”

1. Pass it on that Restoration (sanctification) is necessary.

A. Why is a New Life necessary?

1. When you trust in Jesus Christ to change your life, God immediately removes the guilt of sin in God's courtroom, but the natural tendency to go your own way remains.

You have become a forgiven sinner, but you still have a lot of changing to do.

It is this tendency to go our own way that is dealt with by the Holy Spirit in Sanctification, the process of becoming holy.

God could have chosen to remove sin instantly, but chooses not to for His own glory.

In this, we trust His love and wisdom.

God's problem with us: a bad record, a bad heart, & a bad master.

In conversion the bad record is paid for, and we are given a new master. And He gives believers a new heart that is empowered to obey God, though we can still choose to act like the old nature.

Change is necessary because without a changed life, you can have no fellowship with God, no joy & no power.

It is the Holy Spirit's first work to convince people of their need for a Savior & to mend our broken Relationship with God. Jesus said in John 16:8 (ESV) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

2. Holy living is absolutely necessary for our peace with God. There are 3 parts to this necessity:

- Peace as to our eternal safety. Heb. 12:14 says, (NKJV) "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord"

- Peace as to your growth in Christ: Acts 20:32 (NKJV) "I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

- Peace as to your usefulness to God and people: Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

B. Holy living is necessary because of God's purpose in your life.

When people speak of the work of the Holy Spirit, they often associate it with one of 3 things:

- Power for living
- Performance in service: Using Spiritual Gifts
- Purity of motives & actions

While Sanctification is all of these things, it is not mainly any one of them.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to communicate the presence, in and with the Christian and the church, of the Jesus of history and the Christ of Faith. It is to assure us that He is here, He is active and He is glorious.

In this, His work is nothing less than to make us just like Christ.

Matt. 5:48 (NKJV) Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Eph. 4:12b-13 (ESV) “for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,”

ILL: If a homeless person comes to us in desperate need, down and out, in rags and tatters, and sick, even starving, it will be good to give him a bath and a change of clothing, but not enough. For he is ill and undernourished. So, in addition, he needs food and hospital treatment.

Similarly, we come to Christ down and out, in the rags and tatters of our sin, spiritually sick and starving. In Christ, we are at once made welcome and accepted, and given a bath and a change of clothes. God sees us as righteous in Christ. This is our new status. But it is only the beginning. The Good Physician knows we are sick. So he puts His Spirit within us to give us new life and health, and He feeds us with His Word until we grow strong and vigorous. There are no half-measures with Him.

Trans: Pass it on that restoration is necessary.

2. Pass it on what Restoration (Sanctification) by the Holy Spirit looks like.

Spurgeon’s Baptist Catechism says, “Sanctification is the work of God’s Spirit whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness.”

A. Don’t confuse Sanctification with Conversion, Regeneration or Justification.

Justification removes sin’s guilt, Sanctification removes its pollution.

- It is a process, not an act.

Romans 7:23 (NKJV) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

It is never complete in this life:

Philippians 3:12 (NKJV) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

B. This process has two parts.

1. The pollution of sin is progressively removed:

Romans 6:6 (NKJV) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

The Bible also calls this mortification:

Romans 8:13 (NKJV) For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The Bible also calls this “putting off” sin:

Ephesians 4:22 (ESV) to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

2. The 2nd part is the development of the New Life.

- It is putting on Christ-like obedience.

Ephesians 4:23-24 (ESV) and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

ILL: Several years ago, John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Fellowships, talked with a new Christian about changes in his life. Harry had made a decision for Christ and much of his life was different. For years, Harry had dropped by the same bar every day after work—more for the friendship than for the beer.

The next Monday, Harry walked into the bar as usual and his friends asked, “How is it going?” Harry ordered a beer and proceeded to describe for them how he gave his life to Jesus Christ. Suddenly his friends lapsed into a stony silence, and Harry began to feel uncomfortable and out of place. Over the next day or two, Harry noticed that the cigarette smoke bothered him for the first time, the beer didn’t taste as good as it used to, and the coarse language was suddenly foreign to him. By midweek, Harry realized he no longer belonged in the bar.

As he talked with Wimber, Harry wanted to understand how everything could change so rapidly and drastically.

“That’s easy,” John said. “You’re a new man, with a new heart and desires. You’ll never enjoy the old life again.”

That’s what Restoration looks like. Again, it is never complete in our life on earth.

Trans: Pass it on that Restoration is necessary, Pass it on what Restoration (sanctification) by the Holy Spirit looks like.

3. Pass it on how Restoration happens.

It happens by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit and the believer.

A. The Holy Spirit’s work is the foundation.

Our Affirmation says the “Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and ... is an abiding helper”

The believer still has “indwelling sin,” but an indwelling Holy Spirit with all His power.

ILL: Corrie Ten Boom used to speak of a woodpecker who tapped with his beak against the stem of a tree just as lightning struck the tree and destroyed it. He flew away and said, "I didn't know there was so much power in my beak!"

When we bring the Gospel there is a danger that we will think or say, "I have done a good job." Don't be a silly woodpecker. Know where your strength comes from. It is only the Holy Spirit who can make a message good and fruitful.

The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit’s working in a person with the words “baptism” and “filling.”

The believer in Christ is “Baptized” with the Holy Spirit once and “filled” many times.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

When you believe and are converted, you are also “Baptized” with the Holy Spirit, even though you may not know it by those terms.

What you do know is that something has changed, where you have a new desire to know God more and more and you have a desire to please Him in everything.

As a believer’s Christian life matures, he will have many experiences of “filling,” some of which will make him personally acquainted with and aware of the Holy Spirit’s work.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies by enabling the believer to successfully resist sin more and more, and delight in obeying God more and more instead.

B. While the Holy Spirit's work is foundational, we also have an important role in this Restoration.

God gives believers two kinds of tasks ["disciplines"] by which we grow to be like Christ: those we practice individually, and those we practice together with others.

1. We grow by individual tasks [disciplines].

a. We grow when we read, study, memorize and meditate on God's Word.

The Holy Spirit inspired it and He continually convinces, illumines and interprets the Bible to us

Psalm 119:11 (NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

2 Tim. 3:16-17 (NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

b. We grow by Bible-directed Prayer.

Matthew 26:41 (NKJV) Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

c. We grow by following the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit. They bring conviction of sin, and lead to changes.

d. We grow by obeying God's practical directions for avoiding sin.

The Bible uses negative terms like flee, cut off, pluck out and positive terms like follow and put on.

e. We grow by believing God when He says our sin is dead [mortification]. We recognize, declare and claim the victory of Christ over the enemy.

Romans 6:14 (NKJV) For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

This involves serving others, times of fasting etc.

f. We grow by maintaining a clear conscience before God and others.

ILL: When asked to define conscience, one six-year-old boy wasn't quite sure what it was but thought it had something to do with feeling bad when you kick girls.

These all are the individual tasks [disciplines] by which we grow.

2. We also grow by things we do with other believers.

a. We grow by consistent gathering with God's people.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NKJV) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 2:42 (NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

b. We grow by showing concern for one another.

Galatians 6:1-2 (ESV) Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be

tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

c. We grow by holding each other accountable.

Hebrews 3:13 (NKJV) but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

This can go all the way to the whole church: Mat. 18:15-17. The purpose is to bring the "wandering one" home.

Conc: Pass it on that Restoration (sanctification) is necessary, what Restoration looks like, and how Restoration happens.

It is not by our own efforts alone, but by "walking in the Spirit" by the power of God & in cooperation with the Spiritual family.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Action: Are you asking Christ to give you a new life? What are you waiting for?