

The Life That Pleases God

by Robert Wurtz II

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit in order to walk in obedience to God and resist the devil.

Duration: 47:45

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Matthew 6:33, Romans 6:4-8, Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 2:10

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Sanctification"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker reflects on his personal journey as a classical Pentecostal and emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Holy Ghost. He expresses concern about the current state of the world and the lack of holiness in his generation. The speaker highlights the significance of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives, stating that it brings about a transformation and empowers us to live a new life. He warns against compromising with the world and emphasizes that being full of the Holy Ghost is essential for walking in the power and authority of God. The sermon concludes with a reminder that without the influence of the Holy Spirit, humans are prone to carnality and cannot please God.

Transcript

Praise the Lord. As I was preparing for this particular study this morning, I was thinking about and reflecting in my life about what really was the difference in my spiritual life over the years. What was the one thing that I could look back and say in times where God was really moving in my life and I was walking close to Him, and other times when I seemed to be struggling, what was the difference? And I think the difference, unquestionably, was my willingness to be submitted to the Holy Spirit and to ask the Holy Spirit to come and reside and have control over my life.

I always noticed a pattern that when I would essentially resist the Lord keeping me filled, I would resist the times that I knew I needed to be in prayer, when I would resist even when I would hear preaching the Lord saying, I need to fill you completely. When I would resist those times, what I was really saying was, Lord, I want to be in control. I want to do my own thing because I always knew in my conscience that if the Holy Spirit took up residence completely in me and I had been filled with the Spirit, as He had said many times, be you filled with the Spirit, then I would be powerless to do my own will and could not help but do His will.

I have always noticed that when I am full of the Holy Spirit that I desire the things of God. I desire to be obedient to God. I desire to do all the things that I'm supposed to be doing as a Christian.

And the less and less I stay full, the less and less I want the things of God. And these things are proportional. And there are things that affect how much I want to be filled with the Spirit.

Because sometimes we want to reserve a part of ourselves to ourselves. And we want to say, you know, Lord, I want this much of me. You can't have this part of me because I want to do things on my own.

I want some space as it were. And when we start thinking like this, we have opened the door to the enemy. And we really know it because we know that when the enemy has opportunity to come in, he will come in.

But for some reason we think, well, it'll be okay because if I allow, if I don't stay filled with the Spirit and things come along, after all, there'll be another service where I could turn and I could get close to God again and then work all this out. But you know, that is very dangerous thinking. We need to stay filled with the Spirit.

We need to remain full of the Holy Ghost. I remember Brother Birch talking about so much over the years, how important it was to stay full of the Holy Spirit. Because when we stay full of the Holy Spirit, we automatically by nature just go and do His will.

And not only do we desire it, we have the power to do it. And it's important for us to realize this. Our lesson this morning, I titled The Life That Pleases God.

The Life That Pleases God. Our text is Romans 8, verses 5 through 8. For they that are after the flesh do mind, do think about, do ponder. They have upon their minds.

They allow to be the focal point of their thinking. They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh. But they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death. But to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God.

For it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. The final sentence of Romans 8, 8 is very sobering.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Now when we describe the flesh, we're talking about humanness, our humanity apart from the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. Man left to himself without the influence of the Holy Ghost becomes carnal.

If the Spirit of God is not resident in an individual, they are carnal. Will alone or willpower alone is not enough to cease from sin. It's not enough just to say, I'm going to quit doing these things.

Or it's not enough to just try with all your might. Dunamis, on the other hand, is a dynamic power of the Holy Spirit to meet any need in the life of the born again believer that is submitted to God, a person that is walking and living full of the Holy Spirit that has said, Holy Spirit, I want you to come. I want you to take authority in my life.

See, that is that is the fulcrum of whether we're going to have victory or be in defeat. That is the very center point. That is the decision that we make when we decide whether we're going to have victory over sin or not.

The decision when you reduce it down to its lowest common denominator is this simple thing. Lord, I want you to come in and take up residence and authority in my life. I'm surrendering completely to you.

And I mean, you mean that from the very depth of your being. But when we say, I want to hold back part, I want to be in charge. I'll let you come in and, you know, after all, you can give me advice.

You can do this, but you can't have control. That's when we get in trouble before spiritual gifts, before manifestations of any kind. God is concerned about a Christian walking in full obedience to him.

See, God wants us to walk in full obedience to him. Disobedience is sin. Now the born again believer has been freed from the dynamic power of sin.

Now, that's sin with a capital S. We're talking about sin, that that dynamic sin, that that infestation, as it were, that come in and totally polluted and corrupted human nature, not sins as in the things we do because we're under the influence and power of sin, but sin, the very power, that very thing that the scripture said entered sin, entered sin is older than Adam. OK, there was a time when sin had not yet entered this world. Sin is a dynamic force that came off, as it were, from the serpent, and it entered into Adam and into humanity, and it's passed on from generation to generation in what's known technically as original sin.

The born again believer has been freed from this dynamic power of sin and has come under the power of the Holy Spirit. We discussed this in last week's lesson. If you didn't get that, that would be very helpful.

Where once the person was governed by the law of sin and death, now they are ruled by the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. See, that is the difference. When the Holy Spirit comes in, he will will want us.

He will give us the power to will and do his good pleasure. You see that? But when the Holy Spirit is not resident in us or we're not submitted to him at the level that we should be, in other words, we're not full of the Holy Spirit, we begin to struggle. But when you're full of the Holy Ghost, life is totally different.

You see life differently. All of your appetites are different. All of your appetites foster the continuance of being full.

You see that when the Holy Spirit is in charge, the reason why he's saying, I don't want you doing this, I don't want you doing this or I do want you doing this or directing you this way and that way is because the major focus at first is to keep you full of the Holy Spirit. He wants you full. And the enemy is always at work to try to bring you to a place to where you're getting farther and farther away from God, hardened and more hardened to the Spirit.

In other words, you're not as full, you're emptying out as it were. We could think of it in the metaphor. He wants to empty you out of the Holy Spirit.

I tell the young people, I told them a few years ago at camp, I said, don't let the devil put a hole in your Dixie cup. Because as soon as things are being poured in, the Holy Spirit is being poured out in your life, it's running out. What is that? The enemy has a stronghold or something that you're doing in your life that you run right back to it.

As soon as you do, it just quenches off the influence of the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit, the Spirit, as it were, as it were, rolls out. The law of sin and death is the mosaic law, hopelessly attempted to be lived out

in the strength of the arm of the flesh, which cannot be made subject to the law of God because of the law of sin, which is in our members. You say, what is the law of sin? The law of sin is that inward dynamic that wants to rebel against everything God has said just because he says that.

But when the Holy Spirit is in place, that is dead in us. Understand the law of Moses could only expose the presence of sin in a unregenerate person or a person who was not born again. In regeneration, we are dead to sin through Christ and made alive spiritually by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

See, understand that when the Holy Spirit comes, he brings life. He brings our ability to communicate with God. But not only that, he gives us the power to will and to do his good pleasure.

Without the Holy Spirit in us, we will fall after carnal things more and more. They will get a foothold in our life. This brings us again to the end of our text.

They that are in this flesh cannot please God. It is impossible to please God without the influence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians who try to keep rules or laws are not to be understood as walking in the spirit to just simply getting rid of some bad habits.

And now I come to church and things like this. That is not the same as walking in the spirit. Now, understand that when the Holy Ghost comes, you will probably give up a lot of bad habits, all of them, and you will start coming to church.

But just coming in our own strength and power is something completely different than walking in the spirit. Giving up bad habits, conforming to a code of ethics is not the same as walking in the spirit. The Pharisees lived out many such laws and traditions, but they were not walking in the spirit.

See, they were doing these things under their own strength and power. They were walking according to their own code. And this is where I think so many Christians totally misunderstand the true essence of Christianity.

The true essence of Christianity is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. And through that, the Holy Spirit causes us to walk in his ways as we know them to be. It's not a wrestle or a struggle.

When you're full of the Holy Ghost, it's not a struggle. When you start dwindling down, it becomes a struggle. And then you have to really just put the willpower in and say, I'm going to do it.

But what you really should do as soon as you start feeling yourself, you know, I don't really want to come to church. I really don't want to worship God. I would really just go rather do this thing or that.

What you need to do seriously is find an altar and pray through until God just fills you with the Holy Ghost. And when you get up on your feet again, you'll say, wow, I can't wait till service. I can't wait till God is moving again.

You see, there's a difference. You're never in your own self ever going to want to do anything to serve the Lord. They were doing in their own power their best to please God, and they continually fell short and refused to admit it.

There's another aspect of being in the flesh that the Pharisees taught us. They wouldn't admit it. So Jesus continually had to show them that what you're doing is fleshly.

It's not the life of the spirit. They're trying to keep the letter of the law and the strength of the flesh when they needed. Watch this to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law by walking in the spirit because the spirit and the word agree.

Listen, the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth. As we're in the word of God, he will lead us and put in us that desire to will and to do his good pleasure. Because of this, the Pharisees could never please God.

You remember Jesus said, except your righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will in no wise enter in the kingdom. Why is that? Because what they were doing was all fleshly things, things in their own carnal power. It was not the life of the spirit being worked out through them.

Section C, the genuine Christian life cannot be lived out in our own power. Paul writes to the Galatians, Are you so foolish, having begun in the spirit? Are you now made perfect by the flesh? These are strong words. Amen.

It is foolish to think that a person can simply conform to some rules and think in themselves that they are perfect. Only the Holy Spirit can bring us to the place of perfection in obedience to Christ. Now watch what this word, this particular Greek word for perfect means.

The word perfect is the Greek word epitolio, and it means to fulfill farther, to fulfill farther. It was as if Paul was saying, having begun in the spirit, are you now going to fulfill farther the righteousness of the law by the flesh? Listen, that is impossible. Listen, the flesh, I use this little illustration.

I said the flesh is an enmity with God. It would almost be like you've heard the old saying, the fox guarding the chicken house. See, that's the flesh trying to live out the law of God.

The flesh doesn't see it as a work to watch the chickens. The flesh sees opportunity to break the laws of God when it sees the law. The flesh, it cannot be made subject to the law.

So apart from the Holy Spirit filling us, we in our own power only want to rebel against God. And the laws of God only create all kinds of concupiscence and all kinds of desires. Why? Simply because God said not to do it.

The law brings sin to life in a person who is unregenerate. Thus, the commandment, watch this, the commandment in the life of a person that is not filled with the spirit, becomes a weapon in the hand of the flesh with which it wars against the soul. Think about that.

The commandment actually becomes a weapon in the hand of the flesh to war against your own soul. Why? Because the flesh seizes that opportunity to rebel against God. You say, well, how do we do that? When we're filled with the spirit, the Holy Spirit comes in and takes authority and then the flesh is essentially dead.

Why? Because of Christ that dwells in us. And we're going to get in that in the next section. Although an unregenerate sinner has the general propensity to do what's simple.

In other words, they continue to just want to do naturally what's simple. He seems to feel the most delight in transgressing the known laws of God. Paul said, I had not known love except it had been said, thou shall not covet.

And as soon as God said, thou shall not covet, the flesh rises up and sees an opportunity to rebel against God. This is the evidence of sin, capital F, capital F, sin dwelling in us. That is what entered Adam.

And when it came in, it corrupted man's nature to where man wanted to rebel against God, just like Satan. If God says north, the devil says south. You understand that? He wants to do the opposite and rebel.

And that corruption came into humanity in the form of sin, sin with a capital S. So what defines being in the flesh or being in the spirit? Scripture says, But ye are not in the flesh, but are in the spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now, any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin.

But the life spirit, rather, is life because of righteousness. This is a most important truth. Why? Because of the fact that Christ dwells in you by the Holy Spirit.

The body is dead. The sinfulness of you is dead. It's cut off.

Think about that. It is cut off. The body that was ruled by sin is now dead to sin, but because Christ condemned sin in the flesh.

You hear Brother Birch say it all the time, and I couldn't give a better illustration. When Jesus comes, sin, capital S, moves out and he moves in. You see that? They can't both dwell in the same place.

See, when he's here, he, by virtue of the fact that he is almighty, takes authority over the devil, authority over the flesh, authority over the things of this world, and you walk in harmony with his will. Literally, Christ took sin down into death at the cross. This is the finished work of the cross.

This is the thing that I mentioned in passing last week that Jimmy Swaggart discovered. He discovered that oftentimes what we try to do is just resist sin and resist this temptation and resist lust and all that when the key to everything is just fully submitting to God. Fully submit so you're full of the Holy Ghost.

You cannot resist the things of this world unless the Holy Spirit has come in. It's the same with the devil, and we will touch on that again later. Literally, Christ took sin down into death at the cross.

Once Christ was dead, sin had lost all opportunity to defile and corrupt him. See, sin only had a limited opportunity. Devil only had a limited opportunity while he lived in the days of his flesh, and once he died, that was it.

Sin was cut off in its power forever in him. So when we are in him, sin is dead because of what he did at the cross, and he that is dead to sin dies no more. Death has no dominion over him as it is written, for in that he, Christ, died.

He died unto sin once, but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Not in your own strength, not in your own willpower, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How does that happen? By remaining continuously full of the Holy Spirit. That's the only way. It's not enough just to say, well, I'm yielding to the Lord and I'm trusting the Lord.

No, we need to find a place, we need to find an altar in our life on a continuous basis so that we stay filled with the power of the Holy Spirit so we can walk in victory over sin. This is the finished work of the cross,

working its power in us to destroy the power of sin. See, we can't do it in ourselves.

Christ has already done it. All we need is to be filled with the Spirit so that being filled with the Spirit, we're filled with him, and the finished work of the cross is in effect in our lives. In Christ, if Christ, rather, is in us through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the flesh is dead.

Period. If you're full of the Holy Ghost, the flesh is dead to influence your life. So we see then, section E, that the indwelling propensity to sin caused by the flesh is broken.

Through the finished work of the cross of Calvary, we have both been crucified to the world and the world unto us, and we are dead to the flesh. Think of how awesome that is. Think about the total completion of us being redeemed from sin by just having the Holy Spirit filling us continually.

We're crucified to the world. We're crucified to the flesh. And thirdly, by being in submission to God, we resist the devil and he flees from us.

That's total victory. That's total victory over sin. But again, the battle is in your will.

Your will is always going to want to answer this one question. Will I or will I not be filled with the Spirit? When you start saying, I don't want to be full of the Holy Ghost, what you're telling God is, I want to control this part of my life. That has always been the struggle in my life.

When I look back over my life and I wonder, why did I struggle in this area? Why did I struggle? It always happened because there was a point when God would say, you need to be filled. And I said, you know, not today because you know what? I'm going to be in control. And when the Holy Spirit is there, your life is totally different when you're walking in the Spirit.

You see everything differently. God leads you in a path that will keep you full. The means by which all of this happens is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that comes through the born again experience when we are baptized into Jesus Christ.

That's that salvation. We haven't even begun to talk about the baptism in the Holy Ghost. Think about how awesome this is.

This is just the general born again experience. In verse four, we read, Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like his Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life brings to pass all of these things as a matter of reality and not theory.

Somebody would say, you know, well, that's real good on paper, brother, but it's not a reality in my life. If it's not, it's simply because you need to be filled. You need to be full of the Holy Ghost.

That is the honest reality. Section F to summarize these passages. We see then that the flesh or some call it that simple principle dwelt in us before before we were filled and its motions were the proof of its indwelling.

In effect, sin reigned in the temple of our body. Now the Holy Spirit dwells in us and the witness of the spirit is there and the fruit of the spirit is yielded in our lives to evidence that he being present, he is ruling and reigning in the temple. That's the issue.

That's the bottom line. Adam Clark comments on Romans nine. He said God made man a union with himself and his heart was his temple.

Sin being committed, the temple was defiled and God abandoned it. You see why it's so important to walk in obedience when we grieve the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, as it were, begins to distance from us.

We only become weaker and weaker and weaker. And the less of the presence of God that exists in our life, the less we desire the things of God, the less that we think that we can walk in holiness, the less we even believe we can live a sinless life. But when you're filled and full of the Holy of the Holy Ghost, you know differently.

But when the Spirit of God pulls off, you say this is impossible. And guess what? You're right. It is impossible without the fullness of the spirit.

It is totally impossible. The sin having entered the temple was defiled. God abandoned it.

Jesus Christ has come by his sacrifice and spirit to cleanse the temple and make man again. Listen, the habitation of God through the spirit. There's no other religion on Earth where the man's God comes and lives in him.

That is the essence of Christianity, not that we keep rules, but that Christ is in us living out our life through his life through us. And when the almighty spirit of the Holy Ghost again makes the heart his residence, then the soul is delivered. Watch this from the moral effects of the fall.

When you're full of the Holy Ghost, sin has absolutely no power over you. The world has absolutely no power over you and neither does the devil. And that this is absolutely necessary to our present peace and final salvation is proved from this, that if any man have not the spirit of Christ, that man that was in him produced there by the power of the Holy Spirit, he is none of his.

He does not belong, Adam Clark says, to the kingdom, the flock or the family of God. This is an awful conclusion. He summarizes reader lay it to heart that was written.

Think about this in the early 1800s. He's talking about the necessity of the Holy Spirit dwelling and living in our life. The whole reason why the book of Galatians was written, it was written to tell us that you cannot live this life in the flesh because what identifies you as a Christian is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, not anything else, not conforming, conforming to God, not because you're circumcised, not because you're a child of Abraham, none of those things.

It is only the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit manifested in the fruit of the spirit in your life. Section G. So with this so great salvation having been purchased on the cross of Calvary, why are so many struggling with sin? Is it possible to have the spirit of God and not walk in the spirit? Let me tell you what I believe happens, OK? When we start allowing the things of this world to grab our affection, we no longer desire to be full of the Holy Ghost. And that right there is a statement you could go home with today, because that is the bottom line.

When you allow the things of this world to steal your affection for being full of the Holy Spirit, for Jesus Christ, and you start going after other things, saying, no, God, I'm not going to be full because you know what? Today I'm going to have a break from you. I'm going to have a break this morning from you. I'm going to break from you for about a week.

I need a vacation from you, God. In the world, the flesh and the devil begin taking over and you have less and less desire to be full and you begin to despair, you begin to get angry, you begin to say things like there's no way a person can live right. Everyone's a sinner.

You start thinking, I guarantee you that guy is in sin. I guarantee you that guy is in sin. You know why you think that? Because you're in despair.

You're in despair and you're rightly in despair because without the fullness and the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, there is no way you can live right. We have a clue in Galatians 5, 24 and 25, and they that are Christ have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.

And again, for if you live after the flesh, you shall die. But if you through the spirit, listen out through the spirit, not in your own power, not because you gritted your teeth and you were just so disciplined. But if you through the spirit do mortify, destroy, make dead the deeds of the body, you shall live.

That's the only way. For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. This seems to indicate quite clearly that we are required to walk in the spirit in order to claim child of God status.

Or more excellently, we might say, if you are truly born again, you will be led of the spirit. And the question that ultimately comes down to is this. Well, at what point am I lost? I have no clue.

Only Christ could answer that. But that's really the wrong question to ask. The question to ask is how full can I be and remain? But as human beings, we always tend to think, well, Lord, what's the minimum requirement that I might walk as close to it as possible? But that's a horrible way of thinking.

And that's why I believe you can travel the Bible from cover to cover and you will never find that line where it seems to indicate, well, this is the point that I'm really right and I'm not because God never left us with that. That big fat question mark should cause us to pursue the Lord with all of our heart. Matthew Henry, the great commentator, offers some insight into this passage.

He writes, consider the consequences. What will be at the end of the way at the end of life? Here are life and death, blessing and cursing set before us. If you live after the flesh, you will die.

That is, die eternally, he says. It is the pleasing and serving and gratifying of the flesh that are the ruin of the soul. That is the second death.

Dying indeed is the soul dying. The death of the same is but a sleep. But on the other hand, you shall live, live and live happily in eternity.

That is the true life. If you through the spirit mortify the deeds of the body that is subdued and keep under all fleshly lusts and affections, deny yourself in the pleasing and humoring of the body. And this through the spirit, we cannot do it without the spirit working it in us.

And the spirit will not do it without our doing our endeavor. What an awesome statement. I couldn't summarize it any better if I had to.

What's our endeavor? Our endeavor is this. Lord, fill me with your spirit. Take control of my life.

I mean, from the depths of your soul. And sometimes, you know what? Life might have to deal you some kind of tragic circumstance just so you will release that willingness. Because so long as you can get by, so long as you can just make it.

Well, I'm not killed nobody yet. I'm still coming to church. We're just making it.

We'll keep doing that. But listen to what Matthew Henry is saying here. Ultimately, the finality of that, because it's progressive, will eventually kill us and we must do our endeavor.

What is that? Submit to the Holy Ghost. Say, God, fill me every day of your life. Spirit of God, fill me.

Walk and live in that fullness so that in a word, he continues. We are put upon this dilemma either to displease the body or destroy the soul. Think about that.

That's the bottom line. We either displease the body or we destroy the soul because you can't leave the flesh and still live at the same time eternally. From this, we gather that the true saints of God will persevere in continuing to serve Christ as evidenced by the ongoing production of the fruit of the spirit in their life.

That is the reality. So we return again to our text. They that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But who are in the flesh? We get a clue from Romans eight and nine. If so, be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Listen, if you're full of the Holy Ghost, you cannot be in the flesh.

That is the clear teaching of Scripture. That is a contradiction that is schizophrenic Christianity. It's not possible.

If a person is acting out in their carnality, what is happening is they're not as full of the spirit as they need to be. And the flesh is trying to seize control in their life. And they're struggling.

They're halting between two opinions. And the only help for this is to be refilled with the spirit. That is a huge issue.

Those who are in the flesh are those who have not the spirit of God. When the Holy Spirit is present, the person will produce fruit. Watch this passage for when you were the servants of sin, you were free from righteousness.

What fruit had you then in those things where of you are now ashamed for the end of those things, Paul says, is death. But now being made free from sin and become the servants of God, you have your fruit unto holiness. There's that word holiness in the end, everlasting life for the wages of sin is death.

But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Notice in this passage that imputed and imparted righteousness are both in you. We talked about it last week.

It's not just that God transfers righteousness to your account so that you're justified before God and you're actually saved, declared righteous. But he, at the same time, imparts his genuine righteousness to you so that you will live righteously. These things happen together.

Both transfers take place together, OK? Often we want just the imputed, but not the imparted. That's impossible. That's impossible.

This agrees with Ephesians 2, with Ephesians 2, verses 8 and 9 say, for by grace are you saved through faith, that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. Most people stop there.

But that's just imputed righteousness. That's just the gift of eternal life. The second part of that, which comes along with it, is for we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus under good works for which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

Those scriptures have to be said together, or only a half truth is being told. You are the servants of sin. You were, when you were in sin, bearing fruit that you are now ashamed of that was leading you to eternal death.

But the free gift of righteousness made you a servant of God and his righteousness bearing fruit unto holiness, which ends in eternal life. So we're going to change gears for just a second. We're going to change gears because I think that until we understand as Christians that holiness is something that God absolutely requires, we are never going to know the fullness of the Spirit like we need to.

I believe that we are seeing, and it devastates me, it keeps me awake at night, many nights, when other people are doing other things, thinking about other things, this one thought is in my mind. There is a generation that is passing away and going on to their reward, and the generation that is behind them do not believe in holiness. Do you know that the entire Pentecostal movement was birthed from the Wesleyan holiness revival? That was the very foundation that made it possible for people to begin to even think right.

People weren't thinking right. The whole change, the whole thinking of a generation of churchgoers had to be changed, and this took place over the period of about a hundred years, from about the 17, oh probably really about the 1730s to about the early 1900s, maybe 1901. People come to expect that holiness was normal.

You see that? It was normal. Generation after generation after generation. The generation that believed in living like they wanted to had passed away, and the only people that lived and existed were people that were raised up from the time they were a child, from the youngest to the everybody believed holiness was normal.

But you know what's happened? We have lost in our generation. You know why we're losing Pentecost? Because we're losing holiness. Because the mind of the people is not right.

See, the people took things too far, I believe, in the early 1900s, and then when the power of God wasn't there, it didn't make sense, so they cast it all off, and then their whole mindset changed. They started thinking, you know, all the people did was keep all these mean, silly rules and all that, and then the restraints started being cast off, and you know what? There was no end to that casting off. No end to it.

If you were to talk to the average person, say, 25 years and older, has been in church all their life about holiness, they will look at you like you are crazy, by and large. You're crazy, man. What are you talking about? I'm staying from the world.

What do you mean that I can't go and do all these certain things and still be a Christian? Oh, you might still do it and make it by the skin of your teeth, but you're not going to be full of the Spirit. You're not going to do it and walk in the power of the Holy Ghost, and watch this for a minute. This is a violent, vicious circle, because when this mindset is in place, there is no power and authority with which to really preach, and

because of that, there's no power and authority to convince the people that there needs to be a change.

So now we're locked in a dilemma. We're locked in a vicious dilemma. So what's going to have to change? What's going to have to happen to change people's minds? Listen, you cannot stay full of the Holy Ghost and go off doing whatever things that you want to do.

When you expose yourself to the things of this world, when you run after the world, you are in contradiction to your own self, which really all it proves is that you're not full. That's the real proof. So then what happens is the definition of being full gets changed.

I spoke in tongues, so I'm full of the Holy Ghost, and I'm classical Pentecostal. If God spared my life every many years, I would take that message to my generation. Maybe that's why he raised me up, a beggar from the dunghill, a snot-nosed little seven-year-old kid riding the van to the Rose of Sharon Church.

Maybe that's why I'm here. Maybe that's why when everyone else is thinking, Rob, just lighten up, I'm looking around at the world and I'm thinking, we're slipping. We're slipping bad.

We're slipping fast. Everyone else is walking around smiling, Rob, why do you look like that? Why can't you sleep? Because we're slipping. Time's running out.

The generations that believed in living in holiness are passing away. And what happens in my generation? If I'm the rare guy, I'm the guy that looks like the religious fanatic. I'm the nut.

Oh, you know, you know how people discount me? Let me tell you, Josh, how to do it. It's how it happens. Oh, you know, Rob, you know how he is.

Listen, it takes a consensus among us to establish holiness. One man can't do it. People can paint religious nut on the guy all they want.

But you know, the reality is, if we would get a consensus in our generation of people that believe that we need to walk with the Lord, I'm crucified to the world. I'm crucified to all of the things in this world. I want to walk and live in obedience to God.

I don't want the world. I don't have an appetite for the world. Hear me.

One of the saddest stories I ever heard, and this is crazy, was when Pompei back around, oh, probably it's been over 2000 years ago, charged in Jerusalem and he wanted to run up into the holiest of holies. So he ran through the court of women. Then he ran through the court of the Gentiles.

Then he ran through the court of the holy place into the blackness of the holy of holies. And when he got there, he screamed out, God isn't here. God is not here.

But what happens in so many churches today for a young person to get to God, they got to run through the tennis court, the basketball court, the volleyball court. And when they get into the service, they scream out like Pompei, God is not here. And it's blackness and darkness in the house.

You hear what I'm saying? We have measured on the miners until we don't even have what we need to reach a generation. So they can paint religious nudge on me if they want, because I'm going to declare it in my generation. And I believe there is a group of young people that want to walk with God.

If you don't believe that you should have been here Friday night. There were so many young people here. I've never seen in several years, at least a youth meeting with that many teenagers, hungry seeking God, young people here that were suicidal on the brink of taking their own life, but allowing God to move.

God exposed that. And young people later said, you don't even know. One, one person said later, you don't even know I was going to kill myself in the next two days.

I would have taken the story of his life. He said, I'm sure he would have. I'm sure he would have.

But you see the importance of when the Pompei of our generation run through the courts, they get here. They say, Oh, God is here. What was me? I am undone.

I need a savior. I need to be filled with the spirit, but it's going to take hold in this church. And that's going to have to be a serious change in our thinking.

There are so many things that I could do and make it is just go with the flow. And before it was over, Pentecost would be dead. There'd be no movement of spirit.

Everything would be nothing but programs, programs, programs, another book on how to build your church, another one, another one, another one, nothing but just one man made thing after the other, propping things up. I mentioned this to an older gentleman that lives in England. I said, brother, there are just so many things that have come in that are just programs that that and he reduced me.

You know what he said? He said, brother, understand something. Taking the programs out is not going to put life back in the carcass. Only the Holy Ghost can do that.

These things are there as as like a defibrillator and like a pacemaker keeping things going. But the reality is we need the Holy Spirit. We need an awesome move of God to breathe life back into it.

And I thought, you know what? He's right. Don't rebuke the pacemaker until you've got breath. Take the pacemaker off, you just check out life support.

The life support is in place, but we need a church to get out of the bed, to get on its feet full of the spirit, not propped up by any of man's device and walk with God and show this generation world what it is to have a people that were set apart to him for his name. He must have a people in the earth that are different. I just want to read one little statement to you.

Andrew Bonner, the hymn writer. One hundred years ago made a horrifying and sobering statement. He said this.

I looked for the church and I found it in the world. I looked for the world and I found it in the church. And there in is our destruction, that mixture.

There must be a separation. There must be a peculiarity. There must be.

We are not after these things. Our perspective is eternal, not temporal. We have to have a higher view of life.

We have to see things through the eyes of eternity, not through the eyes of of just temporal things. And that only comes church. Hear me.

And it's a decision that we have to make when we just say this. Holy Spirit, take control of my life. Fill me through and through.

And you stay there. You pray. You do as one preacher did.

Draw a little circle on the floor. You get down on the floor. You get in that circle and you say, God, send a Holy Ghost revival inside this little circle.

And you stay there until you get up under the power and the authority of God. And you walk with him and you demonstrate to the world what it is to be a genuine believer. Anybody? Brother Birch? Come on now.

All right. Yes. Yes.

Ministry. Yes. Absolutely.

Come on now. Yes. Amen.

Absolutely. Yes. Yes.

Praise God. Yes. Amen.

It was awesome. Yes. That was very awesome.

I praise God for what he's doing in our young people. But you have a group that are praying today. For those of you who may not know, the whole district is coming together and praying and not just Mary had a little lamb prayer.

So I'm talking people coming and seeking the face of God so that when you come through the door, you can feel the ocean of the Holy Ghost. And now people are praying until God moves. And it's really starting to bear fruit.

Praise God for that. Anyone else want to share before we turn it over? God bless you guys.

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