

Oxford Baptist Church – Sunday Oct 15, 2017

Pastor Robin W. Pifer

Series: Daily Power – Living the Spirit-filled life.

Message #5 – The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in Us.

Scripture:

The Holy Spirit's Ministry in Us is transforming us into the likeness of Jesus Christ for His Glory. 2Cor 3:18

"God's best-kept secret is this: The Christian life is easier than you think because you already have everything you need in Christ to live it!" God's Best-Kept Secret – Mark Maulding

1. Sanctified in Jesus Christ. 1Cor 1:2; 2Thess 2:13; 1Peter 1:2

- Our perfect position or Identity in Jesus Christ.
- Illustration of the Oak Tree.
- Our progressive growth in Jesus Christ. Luke 10:27; John 14:15

2. Saturated with the Character and Grace of Jesus Christ. Phil 2:12-13; Gal 5:22-23

- The Heart of Spiritual change are the promptings of the Holy Spirit with the Word of God so the individual responds to the will of God.
- Three Responses to God's grace are possible for Christians.
 - Refuse God's grace – keeping the law and try harder.
 - Abuse God's grace – diminishing sin and disobedience
 - Use God's grace – victory is living by grace.

3. Set Apart to Progress by the Holiness of Jesus Christ. Romans 12:1-2; 2Cor 5:21

- The Work of God – Psalm 74:12
- The Word of God – 2Timothy 3:16-17

- Personal Commitment – 1Cor 9:24-27
- Other Believers – Eph. 4:11-13, 15-16
- Time and Trials - 1Peter 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14; Heb. 12:8-11; James 1:2-4

Are you going to let the Holy Spirit of God transform you by grace to glorify Jesus Christ?

Life Group Questions

1. How did the illustration of the Oak Tree impact your view of your identity in Jesus Christ?
2. In what ways does the oak tree illustration help you understand the spiritual growth process in your life?
3. If growing in spiritual likeness to Jesus Christ is the work or ministry in us by the Holy Spirit, what are the strong areas and the weak areas of your character?
4. Is the Christian life a checklist or is it the Spirit of Jesus Christ living in you? Discuss this in your group.
5. What approach is really about spiritual growth?
6. In what ways does Phil 2:12-13 and Gal 5:22-23 relate to our spiritual growth happening from within?
7. Why is this spiritual fruit only produced by the Holy Spirit? What is life produced by the sinful nature or the flesh?
8. In the interaction process between the Holy Spirit and the Individual are you relying more on human effort or on God "moving" or "prompting" you to grow? Or do you tend to neglect the process of spiritual growth?
9. Why is Christ-like character so important before spiritually gifted service?
10. As the apostle Paul writes to Christians in his epistles how does he address them, as sinners, saints (holy ones)?
11. How does this change your view of who you are in Jesus Christ?