

Timothy ... will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Paul - 1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

In Christ

Or don't you know that all of those who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death...burial...and resurrection.

Paul - Romans 6:3-5 (NIV)

David Kuykendall Ministries

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Obeys the five commands listed below and experience your life "in Christ."

Experience the abundant life through living by grace.

Notice that each command is either to believe something or to choose to do something.

THE FIVE COMMANDS

Believe

Romans 6:11

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Choose

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in its lusts

Choose

Romans 6:13a

Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

Choose/Believe

Romans 6:13b

Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.

Choose

Romans 6:13c

[Present] your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We can and should obey each of these commands because Romans 6:3-5 teaches that all believers have been baptized into Jesus and as a result all believers have been baptized into his death, burial, and resurrection.

A PERSONAL LETTER TO PASTORS

David Kuykendall

Dear Pastor,

Often, we hear reports about how many churches have closed their doors. In these depressing times, how would you like to be pastor of a church where your members were continually reading and understanding, growing in Bible knowledge, and discussing the theological truths of the Bible? A church where all members would come to announced prayer times?

How would you like to be pastor of a church that was characterized by sweet and loving fellowship, where all members were generous givers and were continually praising God?

Would you like to be pastor of a church that had a good reputation in the community and was seeing continually people being saved?

You may be thinking, "I could never be pastor of such a wonderful church because no such church has ever existed."

Yes, you can be pastor of such a church, and yes, one has existed. Read Acts 2:41-47.

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

This describes the church that came into existence on the Day of Pentecost. Whose main leaders were fishermen. This seems impossible, but Scripture testifies that it is so. But how could this be? Read Acts 2:1-4.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In addition Peter told those who were listening to his sermon:

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Now, there were 3,120 who were filled with the Holy Spirit. Then follows Acts 2:42-47 that describes the nature of the church.

For you to be pastor of such a wonderful church, you have to change your emphasis from what you can do to a determination that your church be one filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 says:

...do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Since we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, it is possible for us to be filled. The words "be filled" should be translated "continue to be filled."

If we are to continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit, first of all we must believe in the Holy Spirit and His power. We must believe what the Book of Acts says He can do.

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We must believe that we can continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. We must understand how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We must do what Scripture teaches in order to continually receive the filling of the Holy Spirit.

We must believe that when we invited Jesus to come and live in us, He did. We were filled with the Holy Spirit. He came in to take over. However, there are things we must believe and do in order to be continually filled with the Spirit. Galatians 5:17 says:

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

We will be continually filled with the Holy Spirit when we do something to take away the resistance of the flesh—our sin nature, our attitude that we are wise. In order to do this, there are things about the flesh we must understand. Begin with Galatians 5:24.

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

When we received Jesus as Lord and Savior, our flesh was crucified. For a time the flesh was out of power. However, when we began to serve God in our own wisdom and strength, the crucified flesh made his presence again in our lives. We must do something to experience the crucifixion of the flesh. First, we must believe that when we were saved, we were spiritually crucified, buried, and resurrected (Romans 6:3-6).

Then, we must follow the directions of Romans 6:11-13. They are 5 in number. Each will be quoted with notes in italics.

First, "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *The word "reckon" means "believe." Also the word is one of continual action. Read the verse "continue to believe that you are dead to sin and alive to God."*

Second, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts." *The first command was a command of faith. This is a command of choice. Translate "sin" with the word "flesh."*

Third, "... do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to "sin."

Again translate "sin" as "flesh." This also is a command of continual action.

The fourth command "but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead." *This command tells us what to do. The first of the five command tells us what to do. The second and third commands tell us what not to do. Now the fourth and fifth commands, tell us what to do. The word "present" means "to make available." Make yourself available to the Holy Spirit. The words "as being alive from the dead" mean "as one who is spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected."*

The fifth command is "and [make available] your members as instruments of righteousness. "We are not to give our bodies to sin but to God. The result will be that the Holy Spirit will tell us what to do with our bodies, we will do what He says, and He "will do acts of righteousness through our bodies."

Now read verse 14. "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace." *The Greek word translated "for" can be translated "then." This makes the verse read, "Then sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." To be "under grace" is to be filled with the Spirit.*

Pastor, this means that for you to have a church like the one described in the second chapter of Acts, it is necessary for you to believe the words of Romans 6:3-6 and follow the directions of Romans 6:11-13. But that is not enough. You must teach these words to your congregation, pray for the Holy Spirit to explain them to your members, and prompt them to obey them. You will have, then, a Spirit-filled church.

In doing these things, you will overcome the many years of living out the "self-effort" approach that our spiritual forefathers passed down to us.

What I have suggested will not be done without objections from you pastor friends. It will not be fast. When I first saw that I had been spiritually crucified, buried and resurrected, I immediately wanted to tell my preacher friends because of the great difference it had made in my life. Only one respected what I said, but he had no idea of what I was talking about. I am sure that you will have the same experience. As far as your preacher friends are concerned, you will likely have to go it alone.

Because of the "doing my best for Jesus" approach our spiritual forefathers left us, you will meet opposition in your church. Also, because our spiritual forefathers left us with a fear of preaching about the Holy Spirit, you will have opposition.

Sincerely,

Pastor David Kuykendall

P. S.

Throughout the letter, I have been writing about the perfect church where all the members were filled with the Holy Spirit. Keep that as the desire of your heart.

However, the perfection of that church lasted only a brief time. Some of its members began to walk in the flesh. Later a large group began to walk in the flesh.

Not any of the churches mentioned in the New Testament were perfect churches. It is doubtful that throughout church history there has likely not been a single church where the Pastor and all its members were filled with the Spirit.

If it's your desire to enter into God's plan of being filled with the Spirit and having your members filled with the Spirit, God will be greatly pleased.

If you will do the things that result in the filling of the Spirit and experience that filling, you will be amazed at the changes God will make in your personal life.

God will begin to make changes in your ministry that will make changes in your church—even if not any of your members have received the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Do not expect a mass movement of the Holy Spirit to bring a large number of your members to a filling of the Holy Spirit soon. Your most godly members will be the first to follow you in your walk in the Spirit.

Book orders, newsletter contributions, or tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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