

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.

CHURCH PLANTING BY GOD'S GRACE

Kenny Moore

Kenny Moore has been a church planting missionary for almost a quarter of a century. He believes that this is one of the best methods for successful gospel saturation. He has seen much success, but knows there can be more success in church planting than is being experienced. In the article, he shares his belief that the thing that has been missing is believers living out the "in Christ" life.

The conventional wisdom is that we cannot experience such a movement as is being seen in places like China, India and some other majority world countries because we do not experience persecution, we are too affluent, too educated, too materialistic, too dependent upon external funding, too fearful of heresy to validate indigenous/non-seminary trained leadership—and too hesitant to validate emerging congregational models of churches. I reject these conclusions.

It is a general consensus of missiologists that the key trigger for a spiritual "movement" is a work of the Holy Spirit. Roland Allen, a famous missiologist of a previous century said: "After Pentecost, everything that happened in the book of Acts, was by the impulse of the Spirit."

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What if we could believe the Scripture and begin to imagine that the power that was available to the first century Christians—that resulted in the explosion of the gospel and the planting of churches in that New Testament world—is available to us also?

We have made a "movement" of God in our personal lives and in our communities harder than it needs to be. What if we could put our own opinions, perspectives, efforts, performance and wisdom out of power and opened ourselves to life by the Spirit?

The apostle Paul provides us with five-steps—five commands (Romans 6:11-13c) for receiving the filling of the Spirit. These commands are as follows:

Reckon (believe) yourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God. Romans 6:11

Let not sin reign in your mortal body Romans 6:12

Do not give the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness. Romans 6:13a

Make yourself available to God as those crucified, buried and resurrected. Romans 6:13b

Make your whole body available to God for Him to use them to do His works of righteousness. Romans 6:13c

Romans 6:14 which follows the guidance of the five commands says, "For sin shall not reign over you, for you are not under law but under grace." The first word of that sentence, "For" can be translated "Then." It should be in this verse. This means that when we ask the Holy Spirit for the faith to respond to His promptings, we receive the empowerment to obey the five commands—then sin will not rule over us for we are not under law but under grace. To be under grace is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

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Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." This means that throughout our Christian

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lives the Holy Spirit is prompting us to live out these five commands that result in the abundant life. Responding to those promptings is not legalism. It is rather responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and choosing to experience our divine oneness with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

What if, we made a conscious choice to reckon (believe) ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God, and not to let sin reign over our mortal bodies (v.12). What if we chose to stop offering to sin the parts of our body as instruments of wickedness (v.13a), but rather once and for all offered ourselves to God as persons spiritually crucified, buried and raised from the dead (v.13b). Lastly, what if we chose to offer the parts of our bodies to God for Him to use them as instruments of righteousness (v.13c)?

In 1 Corinthians 4:17, Paul testifies that in every church, he teaches about his life in Christ. This means that he testifies to the churches what God has done in his life by responding to the five commands of Romans 6:11-13. It was to Paul that God revealed how to experience our oneness with Christ.

Imagine what this message meant to the first century Christians. Some had been recently removed from the bondage of paganism. The others had been recently removed from legalism. Imagine what this message could mean to twenty-first century Christians in bondage to the flesh, constantly under attack by Satan and continually bombarded by the destructive influence of the world. We must not have a failure of imagination!

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In the account of the first believers being filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, Peter

preached to the crowd that had gathered. In his message, he quoted from the Book of Joel. Two of the statements that he quotes from Joel are: “Your young men shall see visions; your old men shall dream dreams.”

It is not an uncommon thing to hear someone who has had great success in the ministry of the Lord say, “I had a vision of what God has done through me. Billy Graham has testified that as a young man he had visions of preaching to vast audiences of people.

There is something significant about God giving Peter this passage to quote on the first day that followers of Jesus were filled with the Spirit. The message is that when we are filled with the Spirit of God, He can give us visions of what He wants to do in and through us. He can give us such visions and we can imagine God making them happen. Such experiences can give us faith that God will make them happen.

Think of God giving a Spirit-filled believer a vision of beginning a new church. That vision, that imagination could be God’s instrument of using that person in planting a church—even multiple churches.

A rapidly multiplying movement of churches being planted is not really an issue of our methodology. That movement begins with a call of God on some to be church planters. Those who know they have such a calling must be filled with the Holy Spirit. For many of those who are called, if not all, will receive visions from God of what He will do in and through them. Some will have a call to plant multiple churches.

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Some who are called to be church planters go under the authority of some mission group. Even though members of this group will not be hands on participants in the venture, they should carry as much concern for the success of those who are on the field.

These godly workers also need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In fact, they can take the lead in teaching those on the field how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

When God gives us a vision of what He is going to do through us, we live with that vision through our imagination. Albert Einstein said, “imagination is more powerful than knowledge.”

It all begins with our believing Scripture. It begins with our believing there is such a thing as being filled with the Spirit and choosing to be filled. It begins with us knowing how to be filled with the Spirit.

For the last sixteen years, I have been studying to know the barriers that hinder a “movement of the Holy Spirit.” I have also been studying to know what triggers a “movement of the Holy Spirit.” I thank God that I now know.

MINISTRY UPDATE

Soon we will have several thousand copies of our abbreviated version of “Oneness” printed in Burma. The translations are in each of the four different languages spoken there.

In India, translations of “Oneness” in three different languages are under way and will be printed there when the translations are completed.

We have just received word that 9000 copies of “Oneness” are now in print in China and are ready for distribution.

Soon an abbreviated version of “Oneness” in English will be ready for printing in the United States. We will let you know when they are printed and ready for distribution.

Several years ago, the Lord led our ministry to make our books available as free gifts. We have a great burden for the spread of the New Testament message of living by God’s grace.

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