

Three Witnesses

- **Acts 1:8** - But **ye shall receive power**, after that **the Holy Ghost** is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- The Lifestyle Witness
- The Anointed Verbal Witness - The Spirit of Prophecy
- The Supernatural Witness

Introduction

- The Holy Spirit is the life blood of the Church.
- The Age of the Church can also be called the Age of the Spirit.
- By the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), all the benefits of the Age the Spirit were available.
- These remain available today in the sense of the believer having permanent access to the person of the Holy Spirit.

Two Separate Spiritual Experiences

- The three witness are encountered through two separate and distinct experiences
- The **salvation** experience
- The Pentecostal **Baptism with the Holy Spirit.**
- These experiences are doors by which the believer is afterwards granted permanent access to the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

A Friendly Reminder

- No matter how well defined our theology and systematic studies may be, no matter how well founded in scripture and experience they are, we must never forget:
- **Psalms 115:3 - But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.**
- **Ex. - Enoch, Elijah**

The Lifestyle Witness

- **Romans 6:14** - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not **under the law**, but **under grace**.
- At salvation both the **penalty for sin** and the **power of sin** is defeated.
- **Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, **that are dead to sin**, live any longer therein?

Propheesied in the Old Testament

Ezekiel 36:25-27 - Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **26 A new heart** also will I give you, and **a new spirit** will I put within you: and I will **take away the stony heart** out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. **27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.**

Possibly Fulfilled in Acts 2:1-3

Acts 2:1-3 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

- After the Cross, no later than this moment in time

The Government of Grace

- **Salvation** provides permanent access to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.
- **Eph. 2:8** - For by **grace** are ye **saved** through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- **Rom. 1:17b** "...as it is written, The just shall live by faith."
- The principle of faith provides grace.

The Government of Grace

- The ways and means of the New Covenant
- Results of Being Baptized into Christ.
- We are now under “**Christ’s Law**”
- **Focus** - Jesus Christ & Him Crucified
- **Object of Faith** - The Finished Work of Christ
- **Power Source** - The Holy Spirit
- Results - Abundant Life

The Government of Law

- The ways and means of the Old Covenant
- Results of Being Baptized into Moses
- No consistent help from the Holy Spirit
- **Focus** - Laws, Rules, Works, Disciplines
- **Object of Faith** - The Performance of above
- **Power Source** – Self
- **Results** - Inconsistency and Failure

The Results of Being “Under Grace”

- Righteous Christian conduct
- Dedication
- Consecration
- Separation
- Obedience
- Consistency (not perfection)
- Loving God - Loving Neighbor
- Power to die to self - denial of self

What being “under Grace” does not mean.

- Freedom to sin at will
- No conviction regarding sin
- No repentance regarding sin
- **Galatians 5:13** - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- **With liberty comes responsibility.**

The Second Witness

- **An Anointed Verbal Witness**
- **AKA The Spirit of Prophecy**
- **Introduced through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.**
- **Subsequent to Salvation - Power for Service.**
- **Permanent Access to the Holy Spirit yielding power for ministry.**

Experienced by the Disciples

- **Acts 2:4** - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- The disciples would have been regenerated by this time.
- Sometime after the event of Calvary.
- Perhaps as late as Acts 2:1-3.

Joel's Prophecy

- **Acts 2:16-18** - But **this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel; **17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: **18** And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

The Early Disciples Desired This Power

- **Acts 4:29** - And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,
- Continual refillings
- Peter at Pentecost
- **Acts 4:8** - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

The 5 Fold Ministry is a Verbal Ministry

- **Ephesians 4:11-12** - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Needed by All Saints to Share their Faith

- **Acts 8:1** - And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.
- **Acts 8:4** - Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

First Two Witnesses Reviewed

- **Lifestyle Witness**
- **Provided by the work of the Holy Spirit after salvation.**
- **Spirit of Prophecy**
- **Provided by the ministry of the Holy Spirit after the Pentecostal Baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

The Third Witness

- **The Supernatural Witness**
- **Provided after the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- **Hebrews 2:4** - God also bearing them witness, both with **signs** and **wonders**, and with **divers miracles**, and **gifts of the Holy Ghost**, according to his own will?

Confirming the Word

- **Acts 3:6** - Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.
- **The purpose** - Confirm the word preached
- **Mark 16:20** - And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Achieved by Faith

- **Achieved** by faith and grace.
- **Acts 3:15** - And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong,
- **Gal. 3:5-6** - He therefore that **ministereth to you the Spirit**, and **worketh miracles among you**, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith?**

Freely Received

- **Matthew 10:8** - Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **freely ye have received, freely give.**

Verbal and Supernatural Witnesses

- **Acts 4:29-31** - And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, **30** By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.**31** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The Three Witnesses - Conclusion

The Lifestyle Witness

The Spirit of Prophecy

The Supernatural Witness

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