

# HOLINESS

A Divine Way of Living



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## LESSON 10 (B)

### PRESSURES, PROMISES AND POWER

*(2Co 4:7-9) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and \_\_\_\_\_ us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.*

The only way any Christian can succeed is by plugging into the strength and energising power of God the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are energized and strengthened. Our sin nature is rendered **inoperable** (Rom. 6:6; Gal.5:16; 1 John 3:6) and we are able to run towards the goal. When we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, **our flesh is in control**, and we are 100% out of commission as far as God is concerned. Apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit, there is no growth, no service, no blessing, no reward. Satan's cosmic system opposes spirituality - the filling of the Holy Spirit - at every turn. The enemy does not want us to understand the simplicity of God's promises of power.

Too often our lives are like a vehicle with a flat battery or a broken connection.

*(Jer 17:5-6) Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in \_\_\_\_\_, and makes flesh his \_\_\_\_\_ Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited.*

Jeremiah vividly describes the curse that comes with confidence in human strength. Trying to solve the problems of life by relying on human good, human intellect, human technology, human strength, is stepping outside the power space of God. If we think we can fight the spiritual battle in human strength, we are dead wrong. When we discount God and turn our backs on the source of all goodness, all truth, all knowledge, all peace we guarantee misery for ourselves. Any person or any nation that places faith in human strength will be cursed, and no one can blame God, because the **curse is self-induced**.

The result of reliance on human strength is isolation and spiritual dryness. Life will be unbearably harsh and utterly fruitless. The one who chooses this path will not taste of Spiritual success. When we are where God wants us to be, we receive maximum blessing, because that is the **place** where God has determined from eternity past to drop our supplies. We have been at the wrong place at the wrong time.

God has promised to do everything necessary to make us great in His plan. If we want to do things our way, His provision will be there, but we may never see it.

On the other hand, if we realize that we are powerless and that only in divine strength can we stand, then God declares us blessed. "Trust" in Hebrew is the word **batach**, which means "wrestling faith". To trust in the Lord is to fight our battles relying on divine power. We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and cast our cares on Him, because he cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). We take our problems, our pressures, our adversities and yield to them to the Lord, remembering that the battle is His (1 Sam. 17:14).

To illustrate the blessing of trust in the Lord, Jeremiah describes a desert where the river is the only source of life.

*Jer 17:7-8 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes;*

*But its leaf will be green, and will not be \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of drought, Nor will cease from \_\_\_\_\_"*

The river is a picture of God the Holy Spirit. Everything outside the bounds of the river is non productive. But by the river a glorious tree is planted; this fruit tree is a picture of the believer living by faith. The roots of the tree reach toward the river, illustrating the supply system that comes through **spiritual growth**. As the invisible roots system grows, so does the tree, but the root system is always greater than the tree, there is more underground than there is aboveground. The supply system is invisible; the greatness will always be more than that which is visible to other people.

True spirituality (holiness) is the **presence of truth** (God's Word) and the **absence of sin**.

Our **position** in Christ is the POWER, our **practise** is the FRUIT.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

When Jesus told Nicodemus "that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6), He was drawing a line and saying that everything on one side is death or everything on the other side is life. In the Word of God, we are shown the contrast between the

two; between darkness and light, hate and love, the cosmic and the divine, the visible and the invisible, the sinking sand and the solid rock. The following are only a few of the Biblical terms synonymous with spirituality and carnality and their effects.

1. Filled with the Spirit versus controlled by the old sin nature (Eph. 5:18)
2. In the Spirit versus in the flesh (Gal. 5:16-17)
3. The energy (or works) of the Spirit versus the energy of the flesh (Eph.3:20) (The Greek *energia*, translated "works" in this passage, is the source of the English words "energy" and "energize".)
4. Being in (or having) fellowship versus being out of fellowship (1 John 1:3-7)

5. Godliness versus ungodliness (1Tim.3:16)
6. Spiritual versus carnal (1Cor.3:1)
7. The spiritual man versus the natural man (1 Cor.2:14)
8. Walking in the light versus walking in the darkness (1 John.1:6-7)
9. Walking by faith versus walking by sight (2 Cor.5:7)
10. Divine good, divine production versus human good, human production (Eph.2:10) ("Good works" in this passage is from **agathos**, which refers to absolute or intrinsic good, good, and **argon**, "work, enterprise, production.")

*Eph 5:17-18: Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (depravity, immorality, sinfulness,); but be \_\_\_\_\_*

### DISCUSS:

When do we receive the Spirit? Eph. 1:13, 1 Cor, 12:13, Rom.8:9

What is the difference between receiving and being filled with the Spirit? Eph. 5:18