

RECEIVE POWER:

GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

GOD'S PROMISE

“But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power.” Acts 1:8

MY PROMISE

I will seek to feel, look and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Bible Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

We all need a “push” or an “impulse”. It is not that we cannot get up, or walk, or keep going. It is simply that we need a “little help.” Someone who would come and give an additional impulse in order to keep going a little further.

That is the image that we can have with the filling of the Holy Spirit. His presence in our lives is a “push” or a “little help” that we need to live our lives in the power of God. God’s promise is simple. You will receive power. Do you believe it? What do I need power for? One reason is in order to be a witness that being a Christian is worth your time. Secondly, so that we can live victorious lives. Thirdly, in order for others to know that they can win in their personal lives.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLESH AND SPIRIT – Galatians 5:16-18

The church of Galatia (from where the name of the letter to the Galatians comes from) was a church that had begun with lots of “impulse”. The gospel had changed them. The Holy Spirit had made them free and had empowered them to serve Christ; but something happened. Someone told them that they could do it under their own strength. How sad!

That same thing can happen to a person, a family and even a church. We want to depend upon our flesh, our strength our wisdom and our own power. It cannot be done. Why? Paul says that the Spirit and the flesh are opposing forces. Only the Spirit can impulse a believer to live lives of great impulse!

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE SELF EVIDENT – Galatians 5:19-20

How can you know that your “impulse” is fleshly? Look at the list that Paul writes to see some of these characteristics are still some of those that exercise control and dominate your life. If that is so, then, the impulse of the flesh is being manifested and not the Spirit. A carnal Christian will always be fighting with these characteristics. That was the problem of the church of Galatia. The believers had taken a step backwards instead of forwards. They had again evidenced that the flesh was stronger than the freedom of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS OUR IMPULSE (PUSH) – Galatians 5:22-23

How do you know that you have impulse? When you find out that, there are things that come easily to you. It is like going downhill on a bicycle. You do not even have to peddle. Gravity will push you easily. The fruit of the Spirit shows the characteristic that we no longer live under the “power” of the flesh. If that were so, then trying to be good, or friendly, or even keel, would be like going up hill on a bicycle. Heavy and Tiring!

It is beautiful to know that we are no longer under the “law” of the flesh. In the Spirit there is no such law that governs us. The law of divine gravity attracts us to those things that please God and are naturally born in His Spirit.

I WILL SEEK TO FEEL, SEE AND LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT – Galatians 5:24-25

Now that I understand that the law of the Spirit is superior to the law of my “flesh”, I can take definite decisions. One of them is to “crucify the desires and passions of the flesh.” (Verse 24). Yes, it is a decision to seek for the impulse of the Spirit. Paul makes it clear. The Spirit that lives in me calls me to say no to the flesh. Again, it is not by human effort but rather through crucifying your passions and desires (that means to die to them!) That means that I now belong to Christ. In the same letter to the Galatians 2:20 it says that I have been crucified with Christ and that I no longer live. If I do not live, His Spirit lives in me. The Spirit would never do works of the flesh as we saw in the list from verses 19 to 21.

It is a simple decision to make. Let us live by the Spirit (verse 25). How can I get the necessary impulse? Live and walk in the Spirit.