"GOOD NEWS: 'THE UNDERLYING SPIRIT'"

Romans 8:9-28

Introduction: Dudley

1. Have you ever asked yourself these questions:
   a. Why do I keep repeating the same sins over and over?
   b. God says to love everyone, but I can't stand some people--what is wrong?
   c. Sometimes I can't even pray--why?
   d. How can I know I am saved?
   e. Why does everything I do turn out wrong?

2. There is Good News for:
   a. The life centered in God.
   b. That is plugged in to the power source daily, hourly.

   a. One promise is that our sins are forgiven--Good News.
   b. Another is, they continually stay forgiven (unless we totally rebel). I Jno. 1:7.
   c. And He promises us Power, God's power working in us by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion:

I. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us when we are born again.


B. The Gift - Acts 2:38; Acts 5:32; Eph. 1:13; I Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 4:6; Rom. 5:5; Rom. 8:9-11; II Tim. 1:14.

C. Note: He is a person, not an "essence".

   1. To be "filled" (Eph. 5:18) is not receiving the spirit but opening all of life to the influence of the spirit by exposing ourselves to the sources of His power and by obedience.

II. He actively works in our lives.

A. By faith we know He is there.

1. Not by a "physical" or "emotional" sensation—but by faith.

2. Acts 2:38 makes two promises. If we know "by faith" that we are forgiven, now it is also "by faith" we know we "have the spirit living in us".

B. But we also know because of what He does in us.

1. He prays for us. Rom. 8:26-27. (The Spirit "re-arranges" our bumbling but earnest prayers to arrive at God's throne "beautiful".)

2. He reinforces our strength to do right and resist wrong; Eph. 3:17-20; Phil. 4:13. (Could it be like power steering—doing for us upon request, what we couldn't do ourselves?)

3. He gives us Power to love the "unlovely"—Rom. 5:5. (Love is doing what is in another's best interest, whether we feel like it or not.) See I Cor. 13:1-7, Mt. 5:43ff.

4. He is our "down payment" on Heaven. Eph. 1:13; 4:30; Rom. 8:15-18.
   a. He assures us of salvation.
   b. The life we live by His power is a foretaste of Heaven.

5. He guides my life, and weaves its strands into a meaningful pattern. Rom. 8:28.

Conclusion:

1. Isn't this "Good News"? Why would anyone want a superficial miraculous gift like tongues, etc., when all these deep, rich character changing promises are already available through the spirit?

2. We must be "plugged in" before we can be "turned on" so we seek Jesus and He will keep His "spirit" promises. If we "seek only the spirit", we get nothing.

3. Without Him, life is:
   a. Frustration and works centered.
   b. Destined for failure because it is man-oriented.

4. Let the God of the universe make you live.
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