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DOING GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

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Dear Friends In Christ Jesus,

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul says, **“and do not be drunk with wine, which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit”**. This is not a suggestion; but a command given to every child of God! This verse is not an option to be received or rejected; it is an obligation to obey! The Holy Spirit’s guidance and government is not a luxury to be added-on to our lives, for only a few special occasions; but His infusion and influence is an absolute necessity for every moment of every day in the life of the born again believer. The Word of God is commanding us to live our lives in such a manner, that we are being dominated and directed by God the Holy Spirit. He is calling on us to be so submitted to the Holy Spirit, that we are being moved along the pathway of obedience to the Word of God and the Will of God; so that we might be living our lives in a manner that would magnify our Savior and glorify our Father!

The Holy Spirit’s infusion and influence is an absolute necessity for every moment of every day in the life of the born-again believer.


When we consider the word **“filled”**, there is an obvious concept that immediately comes into our minds. We think of the experience of “filling an empty glass full of water”. But in reality, this is an unbiblical conception of the word “filled”, for it wrongly causes us to think of a singular encounter with the Holy Spirit, in which you are struck by spiritual lightening, and He fills the empty glass of your life with Himself. But that is not what this command truly signifies! The word “filled” actually describes a believer who is being guided by the Holy Spirit, in a similar manner to which the wind fills the sails of a boat, to guide that boat in a direction, which is in accordance to the **“Will of the Wind”**! Actually the phrase in verse 18 says, **“Keep on continually being filled with the Holy Spirit”**. It is the picture of the wind filling the sails of the boat, for the purpose of moving the boat toward the specific direction that the Wind has designed for the boat to travel! The wind fills the sails with the ability and the supply to guide the boat for the specific purpose of fulfilling the “will of the wind”; provided that the sailor is not resisting the will of the wind; nor attempting to manipulate the boat, according to his own desires. Brothers and sisters, this issue of “being filled” is not a one-time mystical experience; this is a sustained experience and a continuing reality of being “moved along down the pathway of submission to the will of the Wind of God, which will always be in perfect harmony with the Word which He inspired! Brothers and sisters, this command to be “continually moved along by the Wind of God down the pathway of obedience to the Word of God” is the most important doctrine in spiritual living. If we do not obey this command, we cannot obey any other command in a manner that would be pleasing to our Lord! This concept of being continually guided and governed by the Holy



Spirit is absolutely foundational and fundamental to exhibiting a life of:

- Acceptable worship of the Lord
- A worthy walk with the Lord and
- A powerful witness for the Lord.

But you may ask, “Ed, how do we know that we are truly being ‘carried along by the Holy Spirit’? How do we know that ‘we are not being carried along by deceiving spirits’?” Paul gives us the biblical answer to that important question in Colossians 3:16a, when he commands us to, **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”**. Friends, we are individually responsible to make a daily, personal choice to liberally open the door of our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit, for the goal of being saturated, dominated and directed by His Word. The phrase, “dwell in you richly” means for a believer to submit to the word of Christ; to take up an intimate residence in your life, and inhabit you continually! The child of God is to be treasuring the Word of God as his necessary, daily food; and as the pre-eminent instructional manual for the totality of his life. The Holy Spirit and the Word, which He inspired, cannot be separated from each other; because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth! We are personally responsible to surrender ourselves to a daily, diligent and prayerful contemplation on the Word; and a personal and practical application of the Word of God to every compartment of our lives! As a matter of fact, if you were to study the evidences of being **“filled with the Spirit”** in the remainder of Ephesians 5 and the evidences of **“letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly”** in Colossians 3, you would find that they are PRECISELY THE SAME! Brothers and sisters, this issue of the “fullness of the Spirit” is not about a dramatic, ecstatic experience; rather it is all about the internal, on-going reality of submitting your life to be conformed to the character of Christ! This spiritual reality of “fullness” will be clearly manifested, when your life “is being carried along the pathway of obedience to the Will of God, as you are daily discovering it in the Word of God”. Oh dear friends, may we be among those whose lives are being continually “moved along by the Holy Wind of God”, down the pathway of a vital obedience to the Word of God; so that our lives might magnify our Savior and glorify our Father!



CUBA CONFERENCE ON “THE HOLY SPIRIT”

My dear brother and co-laborer in Christ, Garry Morrison and I have just returned from Holguin, Cuba. Once again, we were given the blessed privilege and responsibility to teach hundreds of Baptist church planters, house church leaders, pastors and other lay leaders on the topic of **“The New Covenant Promise of the Holy Spirit”**. Of course, as I spent a few hundred hours studying this infinite theme of the Holy Spirit, in preparation for this conference, I quickly realized that I was only going to be able to touch the hem of the garment of this vast subject on the 3rd Person of the Trinity! I had to limit my teaching to 12 sessions, which was about 18 hours of teaching. So after much prayer and preparation, I came to the conclusion that the following particular themes would be the most needed for this particular conference.

- “The Importance Of Studying The Holy Spirit”
- “The Deity And Personality Of The Holy Spirit”;
- “The Miraculous Regenerating Work Of The Holy Spirit”
- “The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit - 2 intense sessions
- “The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit” - 4 sessions

All of the leadership among the pastors and missionaries were individually, as well as jointly, testifying that these specific themes have come to us, “by Divine appointment, for such a time as this.” Presently, there is a slight opening of the doors for others to enter into communist Cuba. As this occurs, Baptist pastors and their congregations are already realizing that many ‘winds of false doctrine’ are beginning to blow from other denominations; and those deceptive doctrines are already attempting to blow on the periphery of the Eastern Baptist Convention.

Those who give leadership over the missionaries were testifying that this is God's perfect timing for these young men and women to be rooted and grounded in sound doctrines, concerning the Person and the Work of the precious Holy Spirit!

Maranatha Baptist Church, the sight of this annual conference, was filled to overflowing with these young men and women, who have given their lives for church planting. These church planters and cell group leaders were hanging onto every word throughout each session; and many of them were writing extra notes in their workbooks, as fast as they could. Of course, by necessity, some of the sessions were polemic in nature, because we were exposing false teaching concerning the Holy Spirit; and replacing it with sound doctrine concerning His Person and His activities. But there were also sessions that were very personal in nature, as in the sessions that were taught on the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit to the body of Christ.



A NOTE FROM GARRY MORRISON

Twenty-three years ago, when my wife and I met Ed and Dianne, none of us could have imagined that God was putting together a ministry team, that eventually would impact many unbelievers and believers, in several Spanish speaking countries, including the communist island of Cuba. God has given Bro. Ed the privilege of ministering on 27 mission trips to Cuba. I have had the great privilege of traveling with him on the last eleven trips. God has also given me the privilege of translating innumerable workbooks into Spanish, which have literally touched thousands of people in various Spanish-speaking countries with sound doctrine, theology, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Moreover, these teachings have personally more soundly rooted and grounded me in the Word of God and in its practical applications for my personal daily living and ministry.

On this last trip to Holguín, Cuba, it was so wonderful to see our brethren from Iglesia Bautista Maranata (also known as First Baptist Church of Holguin), with whom we have had an on-going relationship for many years, to once again host this annual conference. As these Cuban brothers shared with us, (both in a staff meetings and a joint missionary meeting), we became more aware, that they were excited and expectantly awaiting to receive a Word from the Lord on this teaching of the Holy Spirit. But, we were also very thankful that they felt an increased openness to share what the Lord has been doing in their ministries, and in their personal and family lives, (both in the mountain tops and in the valleys). There was also some sadness to learn that one of the missionary lady assistants had recently gone home to be with the Lord. We had the opportunity to visit the family members of the deceased missionary. As we visited with them we realized that she had left a wonderful legacy of faith, (her Godly testimony, her constant prayer for her lost family members and friends, and her love to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, up to the moment of her last breath on earth).

The highlight for me on this trip was to witness to an unconverted forty-three year old lady. She has a high managerial position in Cuba's tourism industry, and her husband is a "high-ranking" member of the Cuban Communist Party. For security purposes, I will conceal her identity and will call her, "Mary". Mary's good friend and co-worker, Mayra, who is a Christian, had given her a New Testament and had shared her testimony with her; but Mayra wanted me to visit Mary to intentionally share the gospel of Jesus Christ with her. So Mayra set up an early morning appointment, and I was able to share with her who Jesus is, what Jesus did on the cross, and the terms of Jesus to have salvation in Him, which are repentance and faith. Mary was broken over her sinfulness and she knew that Jesus loves her unconditionally and was willing to forgive her sins. However, Mary told me, with tears in her eyes,

"Now I know who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for me on the cross of Calvary; but I also know, that there is a cost to follow Jesus. I know that I need Jesus in my life, but I am scared because if I follow Him, it might cost me my marriage, I might be ostracized from my family, I may lose my job, and I might suffer persecution from my own husband (who is an atheist and faithful member of the Cuban Communist Party). I am going to have to count the cost before committing my life to Jesus Christ."

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

Needless to say, we could sense the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in Mary's life. I finally shared with her from Mark 10:28-30, "28 Then Peter spoke up, we have left everything to follow you! 29 Truly I tell you, Jesus replied, 'no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and the gospel's 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time - houses, and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands—with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life". I gave Mary a gospel tract, and I urged her to seek the Lord Jesus Christ. I prayed for her and for her husband and her son; and told her that I will be praying for her in the weeks and months to come, so that the Holy Spirit will give her the strength to commit her life to the Lord Jesus Christ. So, would you please join me in praying for the salvation of Mary, her husband, and her son? Also please pray for an invitation to travel to Cuba in December of this year, to preach a week-long evangelistic crusade. I am praying that the Lord will provide the finances for this opportunity.



PROVISION FOR 2 CHURCH BUILDINGS

Jose Andres and his wife Alina were gloriously converted to Christ 5 years ago. Jose was a computer technician and his wife was a medical doctor. After their conversion, they plugged their lives into Maranatha Baptist Church and begin to blossom for the glory of God. Three years ago, Bro. Garry and I taught "Christ-Centered Evangelism" for the missionaries and cell group leaders of the Holguin District. It was during that week, in the conference, that the Holy Spirit called Jose and Alina to be "full-time missionary church planters"! Both of them surrendered to the call of the Lord; and they both left their careers behind, to give their lives to be one of the 25 church planters under Maranatha Baptist Church, which we have the joy of supporting! After some intense training, they were placed in a house mission church in an area called Mayabe. During the last two years there have been 27 men and women who have been converted and baptized; and 21 more adults have testified of conversion and are in the process of a '15 week discipleship study' in preparation for their baptism. They have 71 active members in this mission. For Sunday school and worship services they were meeting in a dilapidated building with a very flimsy wooden roof and partial walls. Just as in all my past trips to Cuba, I brought over \$5,000 beyond the regular expenses for the conference, for the purpose of meeting specific needs that might open up before me, during the week. As I stepped onto this property of this mission at Mayabe, I knew in my heart that this was a Divine appointment to meet some of those financial needs. I knew that this was one of the places, to which the Holy Spirit desired for us to be an additional "channel of blessing" to our brothers and sisters in Christ. I asked Pastor Jose, "Have you considered building a concrete structure on this property?" He told about some plans that he had compiled and given to the senior pastor. I asked him how much the church building would cost! He replied, "2,300 Euros", which is almost \$3,000. When Garry and I walked into the wooden shack that they were presently meeting in, there was a group of church members assembled, which greeted us with 2 of my favorite Spanish Christian songs. Then pastor Jose begin to read from John 14, where the Lord Jesus promises, "I go to prepare a place for you". He encouraged us for a few moments about our eternal home, which is awaiting us in Heaven. But as he was teaching, I knew in my soul that I was to be used as a channel of provision to meet their desperate present need for a building, in which they could worship the Lord, disciple believers and reach out to this area with the gospel. When Bro. Jose concluded, I responded to Jose by saying, "Pastor, the Lord Jesus has not only prepared a place in heaven for you; He has also provided a place for you here, on this property; because the Holy Spirit has laid on my heart to give the entirety of the funds needed for a concrete building today!" The congregation began to weep and rejoice in one accord. Jose said, "Last August, I called the church together and exhorted them to begin praying for God to supply us with a concrete building. We would have never raised this amount of funds in the extreme poverty in which we live. But, I told them that we are going to ask the Holy Spirit to send a man who will be a channel for God to provide. Our Father has answered our prayers today! Glory to God!

Garry and I also had the great joy to visit "The Mount of Olives Baptist Mission" in Las Anguilas. Last year, once again because of your faithful giving, we were able to give the entire funds to purchase a house and two acres of property, for the purpose of converting it into a local Baptist church facility. The mission was meeting in a number of houses. But now, they have a facility in which to worship, to disciple and to reach out to this needy town. This pastor, "Bro. Eddie" and his family, also have made a portion of this house to be their full-time home. So now, Pastor Eddie and his wife are able to live among the town that they are reaching out to, with the gospel. The Lord also allowed us to be a channel of personal financial blessing to a number of the missionaries to meet immediate personal needs. Support was given for the senior adult ministry that Maranatha Baptist Church conducts on a weekly basis. In this outreach they evangelize and disciple elderly people who live in local communist facilities in the Holguin District. The Lord has opened amazing doors for this church to reach out into senior adult facilities that were preciously closed to ministry. Many of them are being converted, baptized and disciplined! God also used many of you to supply the entire expenses for the food and the other provisions for the conference, in which hundreds of church planters, pastors and cell group leaders were fed each evening, with not only spiritual food, but with physical food! They are so many other stories to tell about this trip, but I will just end by saying, all glory goes to our God and our King.

THE WIND OF GOD BLOWING UNTO THE NEW BIRTH OF SINNERS!



The Holy Spirit graced me with 5 wonderful outreach meetings in 3 different states, since our last newsletter. There have been a number of men and women who have testified that the "Wind of God has blown upon their sin-deadened souls"; and as a result, they have entered through the narrow gate that leads to life! The most recent outreach meeting was at Maranatha Baptist Church in Holguin on a Sunday evening, in the midst of the conference. The church brought many unconverted people under the sound of the Gospel. There were at least 25 adults, from young to very old, who came out of the counseling room, testifying that they have been born from above! Also, Dianne and I enjoyed a precious week of ministry at Crossroads Baptist Church in north Alabama, with our dear friends Pastor David Cofield and his wife, Roxanne. Dianne taught at their ladies conference on Saturday morning from the book of Ruth, entitling the lesson "A Masterpiece In The Making". It was obvious that the Lord was present as the special music, the testimonies and the teaching came together, with the same message. Then I had the privilege of preaching a series of messages concerning the issues surrounding true conversion. Pastor David has shared with me that both youth and adults have testified that the 'regenerating power' of the Spirit of Truth has invaded their lives, during that precious week. I also had the wonderful joy of seeing a number of Catholic adults testify of the mighty regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, in 2 meetings in Mississippi! But friends, one of the most amazing testimonies of the awesome work of the Holy Spirit came at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Jonesville, LA. My dear brother in Christ, Pastor Craig James, invited me once again to serve the body there in Jonesville. During the week, a former Baptist pastor who had left the faith and spent the last 5 years in the bars of that parish was gloriously converted to the Lord Jesus. He had been a "lost pastor" for a number of years. When great tribulations and tests came to his life, he lost his pastorate; then he lost his marriage; and ended up on a barstool for 5 years. Some godly men in that area had attempted to reach out to this man over the years, but with no positive response. But the significant "root issue" in his life, was that he had never come to King Jesus on His conditions. He had never been truly born of the Spirit. He only had a false religious experience without the miracle of the new birth! He had tried to live a life that he did not have. Oh but friends, during that week of meetings, He was drawn to the services at this church. As He sat under the Word of God, the Holy Spirit begin to send down the roots of conviction and contrition in his life. One week after the meetings, this former Baptist preacher testified publicly before the congregation, who knew all about him, "I have come to Jesus on His terms; I have truly been born again."

Oh precious friends, there are so many stories that I would love to share with you, about the mighty works of grace that I have seen the Holy Spirit perform in these last 2 months! But the brief pages of this letter hinder me from doing so. I conclude by sharing about a man named David, who was a cocaine addict; but is now giving all of the evidences of a man on whom the Breath of God has resurrected from spiritual death, darkness and bondage! David now has an insatiable appetite for the Word of God; a passionate heart to do the will of God; and an on-going delight to proclaim the Gospel of grace! Oh friend, we know we cannot see wind blowing; but we can see the **obvious effects**. We cannot control the Wind of God; but the effects of His mighty works will always be apparent!



**MAY WE SET OUR SAILS
IN UNCONDITIONAL SUBMISSION**



TO THE MIGHTY WIND OF GOD — THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Oh precious brothers and sisters, what would the Holy Spirit accomplish in and through our lives, if we would simply submit the “sails of our lives” to be continually moved along, in a moment by moment reality, down the pathway of the “Will of the Wind”? Oh that our lives might be permeated with the Holy Spirit, in such a way, that those within the sphere of the influence of our lives might be acutely aware of the awesome aroma of the manifest presence and power of the 3rd Person of the Godhead! May each of us make a new commitment to unconditionally surrender to the Spirit of God, allowing Him to be the dominating and the directing influence in our attitudes, affections, actions and re-actions; so that the totality our lives might magnify our Savior and glorify our Father! May each of us live in such a way, that we might be in intimate cooperation with the ultimate objective of the Holy Spirit, which is to keep the SPOTLIGHT ON JESUS! May we yield our hearts and minds to the governing and guiding influence of the Holy Spirit, in a life of true worship of the Lord and the Lamb of God!

THANK YOU

Dear brothers and sisters, Dianne and I are so grateful for the “fruit of the Spirit” that has been manifested through you, toward us and the ministry that our Lord has given to us. You have manifested the supernatural love of God toward us, through your on-going intercession for us; and your sacrificial sharing to support this ministry in Cuba; in Nicaragua; in Kenya; as well as, many other parts of the world! As I think of this trip alone:

1. A gift of approximately \$3,000 to completely build a structure for Mayabe Baptist Church.
2. Hundreds of dollars of specific personal gifts to meet urgent needs in the lives and ministries of church planters.
3. Well over \$2,000 to pay for all of the attendees to travel and the food expenses for this conference, not even considering the travel expenses for Garry and me, and the cost of the materials.
4. Thousands of dollars for the ongoing annual support for 25 missionary church planters in the Holguin district of Cuba.
5. A gift for the ongoing “senior adult” outreach, that is producing much fruit in the conversion of elderly people, who are on the doorstep of eternity.

Awesome! This is only one of the many foreign trips on which the Lord has allowed me to serve this year. Dianne and I have committed to live the rest of our lives in “cooperation with the Wise and sovereign Wind of God” to guide us down the paths that He has for us to serve; both in America and to the uttermost parts of this world. We are committed to “plant His life-transforming truths” into the lives of pastors, church planters and lay leaders all over this world! But it is an overwhelming joy to realize that the Holy Spirit has also raised up “precious and faithful brothers and sisters” like you, whom He uses to meet all of the needs and obligations that are connected with a commitment like this. We praise God and we thank you, for being willing to be a channel of blessing to so many, not only here in the U.S., but those in foreign lands. We close with this prayer, *“May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you.” Please know of our heart of love and gratefulness for your gifts of love, through prayers and giving. You are so dear to us.*



II Corinthians 4:5

Ed Lacy

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

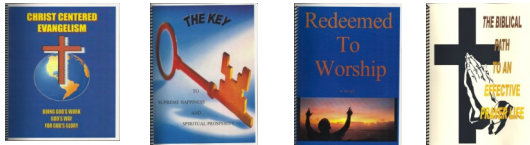
- MAY 26 — JUNE 1.....NICARAGUA—RHEMA INSTITUTE - PASTOR’S EVANGELISM TRAINING**
- JUNE 16 — 18.....SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION—NEW ORLEANS, LA.**
- JULY 15 — 20.....FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH—LAUREL, MARYLAND**
- AUGUST 4—13.....NICARAGUA—ANNUAL CONGRESS OF BAPTIST PASTORS**



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- * 5 DESCRIPTIONS OF HELL FROM THE CROSS
- * THE NARROW GATE
- * ETERNITY'S COURT
- * PARABLE OF THE FOUR SOILS

CD'S

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE LORD * BIBLICAL VISION OF GOD * BIRTHMARKS OF THE NEW BIRTH * COMING TO JESUS ON HIS TERMS * ETERNITY'S COURT * ESSENTIAL TRUTH OF REPENTANCE (THE LIFE OF THE PRODIGAL SON) * 5 DESCRIPTIONS OF HELL FROM THE CROSS * GOD'S INVITATION TO LIFE * LEAVING YOUR FIRST LOVE * PARABLE OF THE 4 SOILS * SACRIFICE OF WORSHIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRIVE TO ENTER THE STRAIT GATE SUPREME AMIBITION OF THE CHILD OF GOD TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS THE TASK, THE TEARS, THE TREASURE AND THE TRIUMPH THE ESSENCE OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL THE NARROW GATE THE LIFE THAT GLORIIFES GOD THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS THE VALUE OF A SOUL TRIANLGE OF INTERESSORY PRAYER STRAIGHT GATE |
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- * WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR JESUS TO BE LORD

TRACTS

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SERMONS

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