

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Repentance: Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

I. Psalm 51 – A PSALM OF REPENTANCE

A. The story behind Psalm 51

¹ A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

B. Repentance is asking for two things::

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

- Outward behavior = “Transgression” or “Lawlessness”
- Inward condition of the heart = “Sin”

C. The fault lies not with God,

^{4a} Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight

^{4b} so that you, O God, may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

D. Deep-seated sickness within

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

E. Sorrow and regret follow transgression – Verses 6 through 8

F. Our immediate need:

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

G. Our deepest need:

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

F. Restoring our fellowship with God:

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

II. WALKING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (Galatians 5)

III. TALKING ABOUT WALKING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Do you have the Holy Spirit? He indwells every genuine Believer (Romans 8:9b)

BAPTISM

1. A mystery! Sacramental rite of entry in the church
2. There is only one baptism – the creed we say every Sunday
3. The words “Baptism by the Holy Spirit” do not appear in the NT anywhere, but the words Jesus “will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” are prominent in Luke-Acts
4. The bottom line: Baptism = Baptism by the Holy Spirit
 - Genuine Baptism is a complex of three elements ;
 - Initial Belief - Repentance
 - Rite of Water
 - Initial Reception of the Spirit
 - Not a fixed order: Acts 2 / Acts 8
 - The coming of the Spirit is a mystery, but also a necessity: John 3 / Rom 8:9
5. The promises of baptism are realized when the Holy Spirit comes to *indwell* forever
6. *The indwelling of the Spirit is simply not observable by others*

B. Are you being filled with the Holy Spirit? On-going process, minute by minute.

FILLING

1. The filling of the Holy Spirit = “under the Spirit’s control”
2. The initial reception (with its subsequent indwelling) of the Spirit often comes also with the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is often seen in Acts
3. References abound to filling/filled/full in Luke & Acts
4. Filling is what Christ commanded: “Abide in the Vine” John 14-16
5. Filling occurs both in response to our day-by-day disciplines AND by “mountaintop” experiences
5. By prayer/Word we learn to reject: quenching/resisting and grieving, which are ‘contra-filling’
6. *Filling of the Holy Spirit is sometimes observable to others*

C. Does your life look like Jesus? The results of continued walking by the Spirit

FRUIT

1. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-24) refers to Christ-like character manifested in our lives
2. The fruit are the product of Holy Spirit + Obedience to Scripture + Time
3. *The fruit of the Spirit are always observable*

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1. An extended topic for another day!