



Life Changing Words From God Week #9 Yield

Jim Hoffman

Yield

- *To give over possession of*, as in deference or defeat; *surrender*.
- *To give up* (an advantage, for example) to another; *concede*.

Rom 6:13

13 And do not present (yield) your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present (yield) yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. NKJV

- In this important chapter for Christian living we are told to yield, but we are not told ‘how’ to yield.
- Our experience tells us that *we have the desire to yield to God, but we also know that it is neither easy nor natural.*
- So it comes as no surprise to God when we struggle to yield. *Therefore He sent One to help us.*

John 14:16-18

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. NKJV

- Jesus spoke of the ‘Helper’ (Comforter in the KJV) who would come.
- This Helper would; come to stay, already *dwelt with them*, would *dwell in them*.
- Notice verse #18 “I will come to you”. *(huh? Was He sending a Helper or was He coming?)*

John 16:7-8

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

NKJV

- Clearly, here Jesus is saying that the Helper is not Himself, but someone else.
- However, *the one whom Jesus would send would be so closely related to Jesus that it validates what Jesus said* in (14:18) when he said “I will come to you”.
- This is why it’s perfectly fine to say that Jesus lives in me even though (technically) it’s the 3rd Person of the Trinity who lives in us.

So far then

- We've been called to do something that is out of our reach; live a holy life.
- God did not leave us as orphans, He decided to send a Helper.
- This Helper is sent by God and is just like Jesusthe Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." NKJV

- Jesus has now been raised from the dead and had appeared to many proving that He was the Son of God.
- He was going to ascend into heaven, but once again confirms His promise of one whom He would send.
- He also speaks of a baptism, but not with water; *this baptism would be with the Holy Spirit.*

What Jesus confirmed in Acts 1:4-5 was prophesied by John the Baptist

Matt 3:11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

NASB

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." NKJV

- **Remember that call to live a holy life** and how we are not up to the task on our own?
- And how God had promised help to us? (power)
- **The Holy Spirit is that Helper** who is able to overcome all of our weaknesses to the extent that the holy life is now within our reach with His help.

Our Helper Arrives

- Acts 2:1-4 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was *a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm*, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, *what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them*. 4 And *everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability*. (Holy Bible, New Living Translation ®, copyright © 1996, 2004 by Tyndale Charitable Trust. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers. All rights reserved.)

And then what happened?

- The feast of Pentecost was one of three feasts that required attendance in Jerusalem.
- Perhaps as many as one million Jews from all over the known world were in attendance in Jerusalem. (ah, the timing of God!)
- All of these Jewish people (devout Jewish people) heard the ‘wonderful works of God’ in their own language. (the tower of Babel in reverse?)

And then what happened?

- The crowd was understandably confused; Acts 2:8 “And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?” NKJV
- This was a completely new work of God; never before had the Spirit come like this, but it was not without a prophetic announcement. (Joel 2:28)
- Peter preaches his first sermon and 3,000 people are saved. (but still just 3 out of every 1,000 who saw the events of that day)

And then what happened?

- They were baptized with the Holy Spirit and the power that had been promised was of so evident.
 - *They spoke in languages that they had never learned* and probably never heard.
 - *They had tongues of fire rest upon their heads.*
 - They had a boldness that they did not have before.
(Peter went from denying that he knew Jesus to proclaiming Him as Savior)

So what does the Spirit-filled life look like?

Eph 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

NKJV

The Pentecostal Distinctive

- To a great extent *the baptism in the Holy Spirit is what distinguishes Pentecostalism from the other bible believing denominations* and associations of the last century.
- We believe that all those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues at some point thereafter. *Other internal spiritual evidences may precede this external evidence.*

What other internal evidences?

- **Boldness to witness.**
- **A greater concern for the lost.**
- **New freedoms in worship.**
- **An overflowing and contagious joy.**
- **A heightened hatred for sin.**
- **A new desire for holiness.**
- **Enhanced effectiveness in ministry.**

Here are some possibilities.

- *Filled with the Holy Spirit when one is saved* with the evidence of tongues. (Acts 10, Cornelius)
- *Filled with the Holy Spirit at some time after being saved* with the evidence of tongues. (Acts 9, Paul)
- *Filled with the Holy Spirit without manifesting the evidence of tongues?* (Luke 1, John the Baptist & Zacharias although both of these were pre-Pentecost)

‘Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit’

- Paul’s primary purpose here is not to preach against getting drunk so much as it is to set up a comparison.
- Some of what is true of people under the control of alcohol is also true of people under the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - They are not their usual self
 - They lose inhibitions
 - They are much more bold and demonstrative about what they think

Eph 5:19

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, NKJV

- A Spirit-filled Christian *praises and freely worships* the Lord.
- His praise and worship are *both public and private*.
- Have you ever seen an intoxicated man be subtle at all about his singing? How about a drunk at a football game; does he cheer in a restrained way?

Eph 5:20

**20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
NKJV**

- A Spirit-filled Christian *is thankful for all things.*
- 1 Thess 5:18 ‘in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.’ NKJV
- If you show me a Christian who is usually grumping, whining, and complaining, I will show you a Christian who is not filled with the Spirit.

Eph 5:20-21

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. NKJV

- A Spirit-filled Christian *submits to the authorities over him and the needs around him.*
- We know that the Spirit is in control of us when *we put self second and others first.* It is perhaps the most unnatural act that we do.
- However, it makes us most like Jesus who laid aside His glory and position to meet our needs. (He became obedient, even to death on a cross)

Gal 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. NKJV

- This is a list of the things that the Holy Spirit will produce in our lives when we are yielded to Him.
- If you want to measure your spirituality, take an inventory. Are these qualities in your life and to what extent are they part of your walk?

Another way to measure spirituality.

- 2 Peter 1:4-8 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them *you might become partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. NASB

But, how do I yield?

- This is truly where the rubber meets the road.
- I can talk as much as I want about my relationship with the Holy Spirit, but if I am unable to yield to Him in everyday life it's just words.
- 1 Cor 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. NKJV

Rom 6:13

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. KJV

- **Rom 6:13 Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time — remember, you've been raised from the dead! — into God's way of doing things.** (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in

Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)

But how do I yield?

- **I must address the desires of my heart.**
 - **There is a part of me that wants desperately to yield to the Holy Spirit and a part of me that does not.**
 - **There is a battle within that I must recognize.**
 - **G.I.G.O (can be garbage in, garbage out; or could be goodstuff in, goodstuff out)**

But how do I yield?

- **I must address my priorities.**
 - **I need to seek Him.**
 - **When I seek Him, He allows me to find Him.**
 - **When I find Him, I begin to see more clearly what really matters.**
 - **When I see what really matters, my priorities come into line.**

But how do I yield?

- **Practical steps:**
 - **Ask for His help.**
 - **Ask others to commit to praying for you daily.**
 - **Seek to do things that are righteous even if you do not feel like it.**
 - **Keep reminding yourself of the brevity of life and length of eternity.**

Questions

