

1. THE BEGINNING
2. HE CREATES
3. HE CONVINCES
4. HE CONVICTS
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6. HE CONSECRATES
7. HE COMFORTS
8. HE COMMITS
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THE HOLY SPIRIT COMMITS

The Apostle Paul was ready to be committed back to the Father.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." (II Timothy 4:7,8)

We started this study calling attention to the fact that the work of the Holy Spirit is much like Francis Thompson's poem "The Hound of Heaven." I cite his beginning and closing verses as follows:

"I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
 I fled Him down the arches of the years;
 I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
 Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
 I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
 Up vistaed hopes I sped;
 And shot; precipitated,
 Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,
 From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
 But with unhurrying chase,
 And unperturbed pace,
 Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
 They beat--and a Voice beat
 More instant than the Feet
 All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.

After a long pursuit covering many years, and through a myriad of fears, this Unseen Pursurer-The Holy Spirit-brings his man home. Here are the final words.

Now of that long pursuit
 Comes on at hand the bruit;
 The Voice is round me like a bursting sea:
 "Save Me, save only Me!"

"All which I took from thee I did but take,
Not for thy harm,
But just that thou mightest seek it in My arms.
All of which a child mistakes
As fancies lost. I have stored for thee at home:
Rise, clasp My hand, and come!
We' re (almost) Home!"

Following is a true story of a young man who was ready to have the Holy Spirit commit him back to his heavenly Father.

Here's a letter from Sebastian, a 24-year-old Christian from Singapore, to his family, relatives and friends.

"Hello. By the time you read this I will have been with Jesus for a few hours already. I want to thank all of you for your kindness, your love, your generosity. I'm proud to be a member of this family. All of you know, I could have escaped the day of my arrest. If time could turn back, I would still choose to stay.

I love you all very, very much. I can't thank God enough for what He's done for me. My calmness comes so naturally to me these last few days. I assure all of you that not once has there been any fear or regrets. The Lord has kept me humorous, joyous and peaceful. It is an indescribable feeling. I can't ask for more at this time.

I'm sure the Lord will lead all of you through difficulties if your trust in Him one hundred percent. Because of my trust and belief in the Lord, I'm able to look forward to be reunited with all of you in the Lord's kingdom. It may be years before all of us will be together in heaven, but for me it will be like the twinkling of an eye.

My hope is that Kent, Ricky and Rocky will receive the Lord too. May the rest of you grow in the Lord's gentleness, kindness and love. I'll ask the Lord to let me be your guardian angel, if that is possible.

I know the funeral will be wonderful. The Lord's presence will insure a pleasant and comforting event. Enjoy it. I love you all. Bye. See you all later." *Sebastian*

Sebastian, was arrested on a possession of marijuana. In Singapore such a charge carries an automatic death sentence.

His brother's letter tells about Sebastian's execution.

"On Monday, August 24, the designated day came for us to visit Sebastian. He had already sensed in his spirit that he would be called home soon. When he confirmed with us that the president's clemency was denied, he told us what to expect. He even knew that he would be executed at dawn on Friday. He began giving instructions to me, telling me what to expect and what I ought to do. And he wanted to donate his organs after his death, so he sought mothers' agreement.

As you can see, Sebastian was ready to go, settling his earthly duties. From Tuesday to Thursday, the family was allowed to visit once in the morning and once in the afternoon for periods of two hours each, three visitors at a time.

For the next three days Sebastian did nothing but encourage the family, speaking with full confidence of following God personally. He was reminding us to trust in God totally. Not sixty percent nor eighty percent but one hundred percent--he kept saying--one hundred percent.

His mother was so comforted by his faith and trust in God that there were no tears but an unbelievable peace. Sebastian prayed for our family members who had not accepted Christ yet and hoped for their acceptance. For those in our family who are Christians, he prayed that we would grow in the Lord. During the last half hour, the warden allowed six of us to see Sebastian together. My eldest brother Isaac, myself, and two younger brothers, Ken and Jeremiah, my mother, and Sebastian's fiancée, Grace, were with him.

With God's strength and grace we were able to sing 'Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a soul like me.' In Christ we became one family. There were tears but great comfort. That was how we parted from Sebastian. It was the last time we saw him alive.

The prison chaplain told us later that as Sebastian walked to the gallows he sang 'Amazing Grace' over and over again. When his body dropped he was singing Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saves a wretch like me. When I've been there 10,000 years, Bright shining as the sun, I've no less days to sing God's praise, then when I first began."

That's living with hope. Sebastian made a decision to become a Christian. Exactly how and when I don't know. But that decision was a decision to live by hope. Not by doubt! Not by distrust!" *happy sabastian was my brother!*

I asked a man: "Are your bags all packed? Are you ready to go?" He blessed me by saying, "Yes, I'm ready to go! My bags are all packed, and I'm just waiting for my boarding pass."

EXERCISE 79

Now write your own statement of readiness to have the Holy Spirit commit you back to the Father. You may use a verse of Scripture if you like.

A dear saint of God shared this special poem with me verbally and in writing. She was ready to be committed back to the Father.

I'LL COME RUNNING HOME

by Yvonne V. Durnberger, Valley Falls, Kansas

I often feel I'd love to hear
My Father say, "Come home,
Abide with me in Heaven, Dear,
Here you'll never have to roam."

His Word tells plainly of the home
He's prepared for you and me,
But we must search His Word to know
How beautiful Heaven must be.

In Revelation He revealed
That the streets are paved with gold,
The water there is crystal clear,
And no one will e're grow old.

Life's river there flows on and on
Through the Garden of Love so fair.
The air which we'll breathe, so pure and sweet
Is by far beyond compare.

The Angels sing the sweetest songs
And millions in one accord
Harmonize with harps of gold
As they serenade our Lord.

But when I wish to hear Him call
To come up there and live;
I think how great the debt I owe,
And how little I've had to give.

Oh, how little I have had to give
On transportation fare,
And reservation for a place to dine
At His table laid up there.

We thank you Father, for Thy Son,
Who paid the price that we
Might inherit this eternal home.
And come and live with Thee.

Give me Dear Father, a few more days,
That I may lead some one
To make their reservations,
To meet Thee and Thy Son.

Dear God, while here; I'll work and wait,
Until the day shall come,
When you are ready and think it's time,
Then I'll come running home.

Permission to use by Yvonne, March, 1995

EXERCISE 80

On our study outline below, check the areas where the Holy Spirit has/is working in your life.

___ *HE has CREATED ME - body, soul, spirit*

___ *HE has CONVINCED ME about Jesus*

___ *HE has CONVICTED ME of sin*

___ *HE has CONVERTED ME*

___ *HE IS CONSECRATING ME - making me like Jesus*

___ *HE is COMFORTING ME*

___ *HE will COMMIT ME*

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." (Romans 8:11)