

## **David McClister – Lessons on the Holy Spirit – Lesson 4**

What a blessing it's been for me to be with you for these lessons, and for these two days. I'm so thankful that I've had this opportunity and the invitation, and everything is worked out for me to be here. I do appreciate your changing your schedule today to accommodate my travel plans. I know that has resulted in some inconvenience for you perhaps, like Kenny said, this is normally the time when many of us would be doing other things than this, and maybe even recharging our batteries for a little while. I will say that if you fall asleep during my class today, you will not be the first person who has done that. So, you're not breaking any new ground. If that's what happens here. That people get up and walk out, fall asleep, do all kinds of things. So, you're not going to offend me if that happens. But we do want to finish our studies today. And do so with a note of thanks for the invitation to be with you. And I commend to you, Brother Kenny, and Beth both of them. They have been a tremendous influence for good and for the Lord back in Tampa for several years. And now I know among you as well. And the fact that he has been here, these many years working among you, tells me that something really good is going on between you and them. And I hope it continues. And I'll pray for you. And for this church, that you have many more years of good work together. Our last topic for this series is "what does the Holy Spirit do for us." And we want to perhaps get a little bit more practical than some of the other things that we've talked about perhaps in the early part of our studies. But this, I think, is very important. Because I have met people who seem to think that "Well, I don't need the Holy Spirit, what would a Holy Spirit do for me?" But once we understand what it does, I think we will appreciate our relationship with the spirit even more. And that will motivate us to cultivate that relationship and for us to be filled up with the Spirit of the Lord. You'll remember in lesson number two, those of you that were here with us or able to listen to that, that we made the point that there is this stream of prophecy in the Old Testament, of a coming time in which God would create anew because the world had gone back to its situation. If you've ever read the Gospel of John, that is exactly the picture. You remember in Genesis chapter one, the earth was formless and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. Well, by the time Jesus comes back, or comes to this earth, the world had been enveloped in darkness once again, moral and spiritual darkness. And just as God had said, In the beginning, let there be light, and that was the beginning of life. So, John says that Jesus was the light, that God sent into this world to make life again, that the world was in need of re-creation. And just as it was at the beginning, that the Spirit of God is present to make a world full of life. So, the prophecies of the Old Testament were that God would send his spirit to his people, and that God would make us alive again, by that spirit. And so, we are now living in the time of God's new creation. God's new creational work has begun in Christ Jesus. And the good news of the gospel is that God has invited you and me to be part of it. He has invited us into this new world, as he called it in Isaiah 65 and 66 into the new heavens and into the new earth, the new place that God has for us to live in. Paul said in Galatians, 5 and 25 "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." And it's important we understand the word live there because the word live can mean something like conduct your life. But that would result in Paul simply repeating himself. Paul is not saying that if we live our lives by the Spirit, let's walk by the Spirit. Know the verb Paul uses their means to be alive. If we are alive by the Spirit, then we must walk by the Spirit. The Spirit of God has made us alive again. We noted this morning Titus chapter three and verse five. But we'll notice again, Paul said there that "he has saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit." That God has made us new again, which is another way of saying that he has re-created us. This is what David knew needed to happen so long ago. You remember in Psalm 51, David wrote this psalm of repentance, after he had sinned with Bathsheba. And he said in verse 10, "create in

me, a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." David understood that for him to be right with God, he had to be remade on the inside, and he prayed to God to create him again. And the good news of the gospel is that that is exactly what God has done. We have also noted a timer to Ephesians chapter four. But in Ephesians, chapter four, in verse 23, Paul says, "be renewed in the spirit of your mind," we've noted that several times. And he goes on to say, "put on the new self, which in the likeness of God, has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." And if you listen very carefully, to that passage, Paul is using the words of Genesis chapters one and two. You remember that when God created the heavens in the earth, and every day that he worked, he looked at what he had done, and he said that it was good? Well, another way to say that it is good is to say that it is right or righteous. And so, we have been created. Notice the use of that word, in righteousness and holiness of the truth. That is God's word. Paul is using the language of creation, to say that what God has done with us is that he has re-created us, and the giving of his spirit is what makes that possible. In Romans chapter 12, and verse two, we noted this morning that Paul says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." And we talked about that renewed mind, renewed heart, renewed spirit, that is the picture that Paul is tapping into there. And in Colossians, three, Paul says that you have "laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and you have put on the new self, who is being renewed," there's that word again, "to a true knowledge, according to the image of the One," same language, Paul, use there in Ephesians 4:24, where Paul talked about being made in the likeness of God, like Adam was made in the image of God. So here in Colossians, that we have been "renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him." We have been made alive, just as the world was made to be a place of life by the Spirit of God in Genesis one. So, God has put His Spirit into this world again to his people to make us alive again. Or another way to say that is that we have been raised from the dead. You remember, we noted in our study yesterday, that Ezekiel talks about the Jews coming back from Babylonian captivity, as a resurrection in Ezekiel chapter 37, the God's people were dead, but God would make them live again. And that prophecy, of course, as we have noted, was not just about physical Jews coming out of physical Babylon, that was a type, that was an illustration, of a much greater Exodus and gathering that was to come, where God would bring us out of the enemy kingdom, the kingdom of sin and death, the kingdom of Satan, and bring us to himself and make us alive again. And so, like Adam, we have been given new life. Paul says in Romans six that we've been raised with Jesus to walk in newness of life, this creation imagery is everywhere in the New Testament. And because we have been made to live a new This enables us to live new lives and bear the fruit of the Spirit. And that's what Paul was talking about there in Galatians five and in verse 25, where he said, "if we are made alive by the Spirit, then let us walk by the Spirit." And so, we have this same kind of thing here in Galatians chapter five, that the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, gentleness, and self-control." That we have been made alive, to live that kind of life. To live lives that are qualitatively different from the lives that we used to be living. And that is because we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us. And this is what marks us as God's people. This is what identifies us, as God's people. You remember, the Jews in the Old Testament had a mark, the adult males had the mark of circumcision, a mark in their flesh, that identified them as all the people on the earth as them being the chosen people of God. And sometimes we look back and we say, well, God doesn't require that anymore. But God does still mark his people, he marks his people, but not in the flesh, but in their spirits, and their hearts and in their minds. And it is this different mind, this new mind, this new heart, this new spirit that we have, that is the mark that we belong to God. And so, in Ephesians, chapter one and verse 13, Paul put it this way, that "in him, you

also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed you were sealed in him with the Holy Spirit of promise." And in the ancient world, to seal something meant to put your mark on it, as indicating that it was yours, that it belonged to you, and it was associated with you. And so, God has sealed us. He has put his seal on us, that marks us as belonging to him. And that seal or that mark, is nothing physical. It is in our hearts. It is the different spirit that lives within us. In Ephesians, four, in verse 30, Paul said, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification, according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear, do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you are sealed, for the day of redemption." We have been marked for a future event. We are the people who have been marked for glory. And that mark is the Spirit that God has given to us. In Romans eight in verse 23, Paul says, "Not only this, but we also ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit. Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons the redemption of our body." Paul says there that the spirit is the first fruits, and we are waiting for our adoption and redemption. You might say, wait a minute, I thought we've already been adopted into God's family. I thought that we've already been redeemed. Yes, we have. But you see, you and I are made up of two things. We are flesh and we are spirit. And what God does is that he renews the spirit. And that is followed up by a renewal of the body. And so here in this world, we are here allowing God to renew us on the inside, we are allowing God to re-create us in heart, in mind, in spirit, in will and everything else that is that is us on the inside, in our character. The day is coming when God will match that new spirit with a new body. And then our adoption will be whole. Our redemption will be 100% complete when we are new on the inside and the outside. And that's what Paul is talking about here. That the spirit is the first fruits, it is the down payment, it is the initial indicator of something more to come - the redemption of our bodies. And Galatians chapter four, in verse six, Paul says, "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father." And you know as well as I do that, the only other place you read that phrase is in the gospel of Mark where Jesus was in the garden, and he prayed Abba, Father. And if I understand what Paul is saying, here, he's saying that you can have the kind of closeness with God that Jesus had, you can have that kind of relationship, because now God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And this is what marks us as His children. Paul says in Romans, chapter eight, "all who are being led by the Spirit, these are sons of God." And that's another one of those verses that, you know, I had read that verse a lot, but it took a while really to sink in what Paul was saying there, this is the mark of a Christian. And we might say, Well, what about baptism, Paul? Yeah, baptism is essential. There is no question about that. Nobody's saying anything about that. But you can get baptized and still not become the person God wants you to become, right? I mean, you've got to change. You've got to allow God to change your heart and your mind and your spirit by filling you up with the Spirit of his Son. And that's what marks you really as a Christian, not that you were in a baptistry at one point, but that you have changed, that God has re-created you. In First John, John says, "The one who keeps His commandments abides in him, and he and him. We know by this, that he abides in us by the Spirit, whom he has given us." And in 4:13, "By this, we know that we abide in Him and He abides in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." Over and over the Apostle said that this is the mark of a Christian. And I find that very useful information. Because what that tells me is that I can look at the New Testament, I can look at the picture of what a Christian is supposed to be and I can use that the way James says, like a mirror into which I should look. And it helps me to evaluate myself. Am I really a child of God? Do I have that spirit? Is that what drives me and motivates me? Is that who I am on the inside? Is that the way I'm living my life? John says, if you can see that, then rest

assured you are one of God's children. But this Spirit also sanctifies us. Again, Titus, chapter three and verse five is interesting. Because normally, if you think about the Old Testament, in the Old Testament, when a thing became unclean, the normal fix for that was to wash it. And Titus three, five says, that we have been saved by the "washing of regeneration." There is a washing that is involved. But not only that, but also by the renewal of the Holy Spirit. And this is what Paul talks about in Romans 15:16. He says that he is a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest of the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. And Paul is talking there in the language of priesthood. And you know, from the Old Testament that a priest could not bring anything unclean to God. The sacrifice had to be clean, could not be defiled. And so, Paul says, that's what I'm doing. I'm like a priest, and I bring people to God. That's the offering that I bring. I bring the Gentiles to God, but I may not bring them defiled, Paul says, they have to be sanctified. They have to be clean and holy, to be presented to God. And what is it that makes them clean and holy? That they have been changed on the inside. Because now that they have a new mind and a new heart and a new spirit, they are now clean, they are sanctified. Paul said in First Corinthians 6:11, speaking of extortioners, and swindlers and adulterers and homosexuals, Paul said to the Corinthians, "such were some of you, but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God." Because we now have a new spirit in us, we have we have been made clean. Second, Thessalonians two, "we should always give thanks to God for your brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation, through sanctification by the Spirit, and faith in the truth." God knew that for us to come back to him, for that exodus to happen, for us to come out of our exile and back to God, that we could not come back dirty, we had to come back clean. And so, God in His plan was to choose us through sanctification by the Spirit. That those who are sanctified, because they have this new spirit in them, God says these will be the people that I take. In first Peter one, Peter addresses his letter to those, his readers, "who are according to the foreknowledge of God, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit," the sanctifying work of the Spirit, "to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood." So, this is the spirit within us, this spirit of holiness that makes us the holy people that God wants us to be. And that is very closely related to what I think is probably the most practical point that I want to share with you this afternoon. And that is that the Spirit that dwells in us, empowers us. It empowers us to do the will of God, to be his agents in this world, to conquer and to know how to live and serve God. And I want you to think about the model of the Old Testament. When the Israelites came into the promised land and they needed help in fighting against their enemies, that God put His Spirit on men like Samson, and Jephtha, and Gideon. And because they were empowered by that spirit, they could overcome the enemy. And that is the picture that drives our understanding of what we're doing today. That we are given the task of conquering, overcoming, fighting against the enemy. But we're not going to do that on our strength, we're not going to do that with human knowledge, we're going to need God's power. And so, this spirit is what empowers us. And it should be obvious to you by now that when I say that it empowers us, I am not suggesting that, it's going to cause you to do something against your will, it's not going to cause you to do anything that you weren't planning on doing in the first place. Because it is a combination, it is a fellowship, it is a communication between our spirit and God's Spirit that's going on here. But to have the strength, to do what God wants me to do, and to serve Him as He wants me to serve Him, requires more than what I have. And it is the Spirit within us that empowers us to live these lives. Remember, we noted in our first lesson yesterday that the basic idea of spirit is force, energy and power. And that is exactly what the Spirit does for us. You remember back in Ezekiel 36 And verse 27. God said there that

"I will put a new spirit and a new heart in you, and I will cause you to walk in My statutes." And sometimes we bristle at that language. How is God going to cause people to walk? And if God causes somebody to walk in His statutes, then is he forcing them to do it? And the answer is no. What God was saying there is that if I make you right on the inside, that will make you live the life that you're supposed to live. Because, as we've noted, this life is lived from the inside out. And so, God understands that if he fixes the inside that will cause us to live the way that we're supposed to live. Paul spoke in Ephesians three and verse 16, about being "strengthened with power in the inner man." And in Romans 15 And verse 13, talked about the "power of the Holy Spirit." Having the spirit, having that new spirit, in us is what arms us to fight and to conquer. As Paul described, "picking up the sword of the Spirit" in Ephesians six, which is the word of God. We talked about that this morning, that through that word, the spirit creates a copy of itself, as it were, within us and picking up that word enables us to have that spirit, that power and to fight. This is so very important for the lives that we are living. That the spirit is kind of like the fuel that drives us. Think of it this way. You've got an engine in a car. And you know, you can hook up a crank or something to that engine and you can turn it and all the parts will move, the pistons will go up and down and the valves will open and shut and, and you know, the power take off in the back will turn. The engine will be moving but it's not doing what it's supposed to, because it needs fuel. And the Spirit is the fuel that makes us run. That is the power behind what we do as Christians. Because as we've noted, Christianity works from the inside out. In Luke 11 and verse 41, Jesus was arguing with the Pharisees about inside versus outside. You remember they didn't care about what was on the inside just as long as the outside looked okay. And Jesus said, "give that which is within his charity, then all things are clean for you." Clean up the inside, then you'll live the life you ought to live. Mark chapter seven, "from within, out of the heart of men precede evil thoughts, fornication, steps, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness." We've got to clean up the inside, if we want the outside to be right. And we've noted in our study several times that every human life operates this way, this is not just something that Christians do all people live this way. Paul said in Ephesians two, that "you were dead in your sins and trespasses, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air." And then notice, he says, "of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." They do what they do, because that is the spirit that is in them. And we all used to have that same corrupted, defiled spirit within us. And that's why we lived according to the lust of the flesh, according to the lusts and desires of the flesh of the mind. But that's different now. Things are different now. Right? God has put a new heart in a new mind and a new spirit within us. So that we may act and speak according to that spirit. And so, God is putting this new spirit into us, he has put it into us, so that we might live the way that he wants us to live. And there's, there's a point here that I want to belabor for just a second. I want to say this kindly. But I want to say it sternly. That trying to act like a Christian on the outside, without being a Christian on the inside is a form of hypocrisy. It just about anybody can act like a Christian friends and brethren. Just about anybody can pick up a Bible and say, well, it says Do not steal, oh, I won't steal. I won't steal today. Therefore, I must be a Christian. No, we all realize that's not how this works, right? That's just the outward side of things. That's just the product. But what a Christian is, is first and foremost what he or she is on the inside. And if we try to live this Christian life without becoming Christians on the inside, and I'm not accusing anybody of anything, I'm speaking more of my self and how I used to live more than anything else. But if you just try to do what Christians do without being a Christian, well, not only is that a form of hypocrisy, but it creates tension and frustration. I have known people and you have too, that just seems just out of nowhere, one day, wake

up and they say I don't want to be a Christian anymore, and they just quit. And you know why they quit because they were doing this. They were trying to act like a Christian without being a Christian. And you can't do that all of your life. Something's going to break if you try. Living the Christian life, friends and brethren, is a matter of making the inside right. So that our words and actions are therefore right as well. So, I mentioned a moment ago, a moment ago, this is the fuel that makes the Christian life work. And the more our spirits in our minds are transformed, so that the Spirit of Christ is in us, the better it works. And it affects everything that we do. Everything in our lives. Thinking the right way. How do I learn to think the right way? Well, by taking God's word, and like we said this morning, allowing it to settle deep into my heart so that it becomes who I am. Desiring the right things, making sure that my desires are holy and good desires. That I'm not desiring evil. Having the right goals, valuing the right things, making the right judgment. These are the things that we all do 1000 times a day. We have to make judgments, how am I going to answer this person? How am I going to react to this person? What am I going to do when I get the news that such and such has happened? What plans am I going to make? How am I going to act while I'm standing in line at the grocery store? What am I going to say to this person who's not treating me very well? Or who has been very nice, you know, how do I live my life on a minute-by-minute basis? How do I make the right judgments? How do I have the right view toward other people, so that I know what to say and when to say it and how to say it so that my speech is seasoned with salt and with grace as it were, and how I know what to do. All of that is the product of the spirit that is within us. That if Christ is in you, and Christ is in me. Or as Paul said, in Romans eight, "if the Spirit of Christ dwells in you, and in me," or if the Spirit of God dwells in us, then you will be able to do these things correctly. And this I would suggest to you is the moral and spiritual power of a Christian. This is the power of Christianity, that we know how to think we know what to say, we know how to react and what plans to make, and what goals to set and what things to do. Because we have Christ in us, we have the Spirit of God in us. And so, as God had said, In Ezekiel 36, "I will put my Spirit within you." And that will cause you to live the way that I want you to live. And if you think about it, friends and brethren, the way that God has made this is a completely natural thing in a sense. It's not natural in the sense that it comes to us naturally. In one sense, it is the most unnatural thing that you and I can think of, but God knows that we don't need a religion of just things to do. That he needs to fix what's wrong with us on the inside. And if he does that, we will naturally do the right things on the outside. And therein lies the power, I think, that is available to us. It's not a physical power. It's not some kind of, you know, supernatural power that enabled Samson to do what he did, or things like that. It is a moral power. That you and I can walk out of our front doors in the morning and face the world knowing that we have been made strong because the Spirit of Christ is going to lead our thoughts and our actions. The Bible also says that the Spirit helps our prayers. And so, Paul said in Ephesians six and verse 18, "with all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit." And we sometimes wonder what, praying in the Spirit, what is that? But if you understand what's going on, that my spirit has now taken on the qualities of Christ Himself, that his spirit is in me. And we talked about this morning about being filled up with that spirit so that worship pours out of us. It's just as natural as it could be, then, that we will pray. And we will pray in, or you could say in the Greek here, by the Spirit because our spirit longs for God, our spirit is in fellowship with God. And prayer is just as natural as it can be. In Jude 20, "you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life." Praying in the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. And in one of the most mysterious, difficult, passages in the New Testament, Paul says that the spirit communicates our yearnings to God. The Spirit helps our weaknesses, Paul says, "We do not

know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints, according to the will of God." That passage amazes me. It's the only time in all of Paul's writings where he talks about that. And he spends two verses on it as if everybody knows what I'm talking about. I don't need to talk about it. And I'm like, wait, Paul, could you slow down here for a second, I'd like to know more about this. But he never said anything more about it. But what he says is amazing. "He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is." Because the Spirit is in us, it is able to talk to God in a deeper way than you and I can with our words that it knows better to talk to God than I know how to talk to God. And what a great blessing that my prayers are never hindered by my inability to say what I'm thinking. We've all had that situation, right? How do I say this? What's the right word for this? What? How do I really communicate this? Never a problem when we're talking to God because the Spirit intercedes in our prayers. What an amazing thing that is. And it's as if God were saying, listen, we're going to create a relationship here, we're going to create a fellowship. And this fellowship is going to be Spirit to spirit. And it is going to be of such a relationship that you will never fail to communicate to me when you want to. What a blessing that is. Well, finally, this afternoon, the important question of "how do I know?" And of course, there are lots of answers that have been proposed as how do I know that I have the Spirit of God within me? There is a large section of Christendom that would say, well, you're going to get a feeling about that. Or something's going to happen to you, maybe you'll say something in a different language or, or maybe you will act in a certain way that you didn't predict or didn't think. Brethren, I would suggest to you that that's not how this works. Feelings are not evidence of possession of God's Spirit. And I don't want to say, and I certainly don't want to give the impression that feelings have no role in religion. God made us with emotions, and it's part of who we are, and it ought to be part of our relationship with God. But what I'm saying is just because you have a feeling about something, that does not prove that you possess the Spirit of God. So how do I know if the Spirit of God is dwelling in me? Well, first of all, it's by faith. Paul said that there in Ephesians three, that "Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." And it's the same way that I know that baptism has cleansed me. How do I know that when I got up out of the baptistry, that God had washed my sins away? Paul says in Colossians, two and verse 12, that "you were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, the in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you are raised up with Him through faith in the working of God." Through faith in the working of God. How do I know that I got cleansed? Because God said, I did. And I have faith in what God says, I trust. I believe in what God has said to me. And so, by faith I know that I was cleansed. How do I know that God has forgiven me? Because God said he did. How do I know that God hears my prayers? Because he says he does. How do I know that heaven exists? The author Hebrew says in Hebrews 11, in verse three "by faith, we understand that the worlds were framed, being made of that which is not seen." How do I know that heaven exists? How do I know there is going to be that beautiful place? Because God said it will be there. How do I know that Christ is in me? How do I know that the Spirit of God is in me? Through faith. And if you believe what God has said in his word, this shouldn't be a problem, right? We believe everything else we should believe this as well. But let me tell you, there's another way to know it. And that is by its fruits. And this is perhaps the easiest way to know. The fruit of the Spirit, Paul says, is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, gentleness, self-control against such things." And the word, the phrase such things there means there's, there's other things as well, this is a sample list. "Against such things, there is no law," Paul says. If I treat other people with love, if I am a person who values peace, in all my

relationships. If I am able to be patient, and kind with people. If my desire is for that, which is good, and I seek goodness, and I practice, goodness. If I am a trustworthy person, and there is no deceit in me, and I say what I mean, and I mean, what I say, and I don't mislead people and I don't lie to people. If I am gentle with people, even when they've not been gentle with me, even when I'm aggravated, or at my wit's end. If I control my flesh, and my flesh wants to do something, and I tell my flesh to sit down and shut up, because it is not in control. These are the things by which I can know that the Spirit of Christ is working in me. And so, all I have to do is look at my life. And I have to be honest, and that's the hard part about it. Right? Honesty is the difficult part. But I have to be honest and look at myself. But if I can see these things in my life, then there ought to be no doubt in my mind, that the Spirit of God is in me, and that it is in you. And so, I hope, friends and brethren, that our study this afternoon, has shown you a little bit that this is a tremendous blessing that God has given us. That he should give His Spirit to us that we might be right in our hearts in our minds, and that we might live the lives that reflect that holiness and goodness, and that we might be lights in the world and the salt of the earth, as the result of it. And my prayer for all of us, is that the Spirit of Christ will dwell within us richly and powerfully, so that we will glorify God. Let me, if you will, please end my part today with a prayer: Good Father, we're so thankful for all that you have done for us, for your love and your kindness and mercy. That because of your love, you have decided to raise us from our spiritual death to make us new again, even when we had become dead and defiled. That you did not abandon us to that horrible condition, but you have given us new life by your Spirit. We pray, Father, that we will be filled with that spirit, that it will flow out of us in such a way that others will see it and that you will always be glorified. Thank you, Father, for this indescribable gift. This is our prayer in Christ's name. Amen.