

The Excellency of the New Testament

12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart. 13 For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. 14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2Cor 5:14-21

6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Heb 8:6-9

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matt 26:28

See also: Mk 14:24, Lk 22:20, 1Cor 11:25

The OT was types and shadows, the NT is the true meaning and yet we still see through a glass darkly – 1 Cor 13:12. Christ is the fulfillment of the OT. The birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT. The questions that I would like to answer are these:

How does man use this that God has done for us?

How do I make it or let it work for me?

The Word of God has the answer to these questions!

The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ opened the door to humanity for us to enter into a relationship with the Creator. One of the things in the Tabernacle that illustrates this when Christ died is the veil of the Temple. In the Tabernacle and in the Temple there was a Holy place and a Most Holy place. In the Holy place was the candlestick, and the table of Shewbread, and the altar of Incense. Next to the altar of Incense the veil separated the Holy place from the Most Holy place. This veil was an embroidered work of blue, purple, and scarlet with cherubims in gold.

31 And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: 32 And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver.

33 And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. 34 And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place. 35 And thou shalt set the table without the veil, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

Ex 26:31-35

Notice that the blue, purple, and scarlet is what the veil is made of; not just three colors on the veil but the color of the thread to weave it was blue, purple, and scarlet. There were also cherubims embroidered on the veil.

Blue – Diety
Scarlet – Flesh (humanity)
Purple – Diety in flesh

The Most Holy place had in it – the Ark with the Cherubims and the mercy seat, the Tables of Stone with the commandments, and the Golden Censer. Aaron's rod that budded and the Golden Pot of Manna were afterthoughts.

The veil represented Diety in flesh – ie one had to go through the body of God to enter into the holiest place of all. This is the experience of the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of

faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb 10:15-22

The Holy Ghost is the answer to or of the OT. Notice: "what he said before".

This is talking about none other than the prophecy of the OT. God had promised the NT to humanity in the Law and the Prophets.

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;

After those days, saith the Lord,

I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;

and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jer 31:33

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Eze 36:25-27

27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Joel 2:27-29

19 And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: 20 That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Eze 11:19 – 20

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Is 28:9-12

The New Testament is more than just Church attendance or zeal or faith, but the design of the New Testament in the mind of God is to make us right in His sight and then empower us to maintain that righteousness and influence the world with this doctrine. To be witnesses unto Him (Acts 1:8)!

The Holy Ghost was not poured out until the day of Pentecost – after Jesus was crucified, died, was buried, and rose again.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)
Jn 7:38-39

The point is that Biblical faith in Christ produces an experience in the believer. Faith that can be defined by the Word of God, faith that yields to the Word of God above personal opinion or religious pride is truly saving faith.

How does this work?

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. 26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jn14:15-18, 20, 25-26

The Holy Ghost is a teacher and a comforter that remains with the spirit of the child of God.

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Jn 15:26

The Spirit of Truth – Jn 17:17 “thy Word is truth” – here is a fulfillment of the prophet Jeremiah that God would put His law in us.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Jn 16:13-14

This is simply saying that the Spirit of truth will not speak outside of the Word of God that is already established and guide us into the depths of truth. This Spirit will also show us things to come.

The work of God on the human heart is done as we humble ourselves!

See: Is 55:15, Eccl 10:4, Is 66:1-2, Jms 4:6-10, Ps 51:17

Luke 24:44-49

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Three elements are addressed here:

- 1) Repentance
 - 2) Remission of sins
 - 3) Power from on High
- See Acts 2:38

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
Acts 1:8

Notice that – Repentance and Remission of sins is to be preached in His name.

The power that we are to be “endued” with is the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost comes in Jesus name.

This blessing of Abraham, which is the promise of the Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost. This marked the consummation of the New Testament. See Gal 3:13-18

Compare these two verses:

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Lk 24:49

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 2:33

Repentance

19 **Repent ye therefore, and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 3:19

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Pro 1:23

Remission of Sins

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 10:43

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Matt 26:28

The Power

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Rom 15:13

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2Tim 1:7

Notice these interchangeable words:
“the Kingdom of God – The Holy Ghost”

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

1Cor 4:20

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Rom 14:17

Look at these two scriptures above in the light of Acts 1:8

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

1 Cor 15:1-4

These are the three elements of NT salvation!

Without repentance and remission of sins there could not be any outpouring.

Repentance = Death

Baptism = Burial

Holy Ghost = Resurrection

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

* Rom 6:1-23

These Elements are fulfilled in obeying the Water and Spirit message of the Book of Acts: 2:38, 8:12-17, 10:43-48, 19:1-6

Jesus said, “water and Spirit” to enter the Kingdom!

Repentance and Remission of Sins

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

1Jn 5:8

22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Heb 9:22 (See also Lev 17:11)

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Eph 4:5

Water, Blood, and Spirit agree together into one Baptism into the Body of Christ.

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,

1Cor 12:13

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 3:19

16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Col 2:11-14

The Holy Ghost is Necessary

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Rom 8:9

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye

are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
1 Cor 6:9-11

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
Eph 1:13-14

3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
1Cor 12:3

See also: Matt 3:11, Acts 1:1-8, Acts 8:12-17, Titus 3:5

Unanimity of Experience

The Apostles were looking for the same experience that they had received from God in their converts.

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.
Acts 11:15-18

Compare the Apostles “beginning” with the experience of Cornelius.

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
Acts 2:1-4

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost

as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.
Acts 10:44-48

See also: Acts 9:17-18 compare with Acts 19:1-6
Paul's expectation of the fruit of belief was the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Just as it was with him.

The Apostles were looking for the same experience in their converts that they had received themselves.

- 1) The move of the Holy Ghost
- 2) Speaking in tongues
- 3) A spirit of submission

The Apostolic message and experience is necessary to enter into the Kingdom of God on earth and to be Raptured out of this world.