

The Church of the Servant King

Review of the Spiritual Life of the Believer (Lesson SLR – 8A)

Christian Integrity: The Spiritual Power Sphere of the Mature Believer (a.k.a. the Divine Dynasphere) **Introduction & Component #1 – Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit**

In previous lessons (SLR 1 & 2), we have studied the command contained in Ephesians 5:18 that we “be filled with the character of Christ by means of the Holy Spirit” based upon a better translation of that passage. We have seen that the means of accomplishing that command is yieldedness on the part of the believer based upon Paul’s teaching in Romans 6 (especially verses 6, 11, & 13) and 12:1-3. In this study, we will be examining in greater depth what the character of Christ looks like when incorporated into the believer’s life.

In Ephesians 6:10, Paul says “Finally, my brethren, be strong [fr. 𐤀◆■☉☿]” in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” As the following verses in this passage (verses 11-13) indicate, our battle is a spiritual battle, not a battle of the flesh. Paul then draws an analogy between the armor of the Roman soldier and the believer’s spiritual armor. The waist [v 14] (a belt from which hung leather strips) was to be girded with truth (principles, promises, and doctrines). The chest area [v 14] was to be protected by the breastplate of righteousness (experiential righteousness, not imputed righteousness). The feet [v 15] were protected by hard, studded shoes which carry the believer to present the Gospel of peace, i.e. the message of salvation. The shield [v 16 – 2 ½’ by 4’] of faith (Phase 2 faith of the believer) provides the believer with protection against the attacks of Satan (fiery darts). The helmet of salvation [v 17] represents soteriological truths and the sword of the Spirit [v 17] is pertinent truth from God’s Word.

The means by which the believer becomes equipped to exhibit the integrity demanded of him by God is by appropriating the eight categories of the spiritual power sphere. Only by so doing will the believer become equipped with the spiritual armament that will allow him/her to become all that God desires, i.e. a spiritually mature believer, who, with a full appreciation of all that God has accomplished through Christ, is able to respond in love to God and share His happiness. Only the mature believer can fully understand Paul’s sentiments expressed in such passages as 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Ephesians 1:2-23; 3:20-21; Philippians 1:3-11; Colossians 1:9-14 cf. 1 Corinthians 9:3-14; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; 11:22-28; 1 Timothy 1:18-20 and Philippians 1:27-29.

The Eight Components of the Spiritual Power Sphere

- Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit – Operation KRY
- Objectivity
- Teachability (Humility)
- Spiritual Momentum
- Personal Love for God (Motivational Virtue)
- Impersonal (Unconditional) Love for Mankind (Functional Virtue)
- Momentum Testing
- Sharing God’s Happiness

I have labeled these eight characteristics “components” because in practical life there is a certain degree of overlap as the believer grows in his knowledge and application of truth. For instance, the believer’s ability to consistently yield to the Holy Spirit (Component #1) is reinforced and strengthened as he/she develops greater objectivity and momentum in life. The believer’s personal love for God and impersonal love for mankind is strengthened by momentum testing in

life. As each of these components are reinforced and become ingrained in the believer's soul, Christian Integrity is the result. The mature believer who operates in this spiritual power sphere has capacity for life, love, and happiness that is a testimony to Christ. He/she approaches life from a paradigm of divine viewpoint that is manifested in discernment, thoughtfulness toward others, and the ability to astutely interpret current trends in history. This believer's soul has been fortified and strengthened via the building blocks of these eight components with an edifice that has sometimes been termed the *edification complex of the soul*. While this phrase is a good description, I will favor the phrase Divine or Spiritual Power Sphere in order to avoid the confusion that sometimes results when the eight components are depicted as sequential and chronological building blocks.

In reality, the categories are dynamic (thus the "dyna" in "dynasphere") and overlap and interrelate as the believer grows in spiritual knowledge and application. The result is Christian Integrity which means a life characterized by no deception, no artificiality, consistency based upon principle not expediency or relativity.

Component #1 – Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit

We have studied yieldedness to the Holy Spirit in an earlier lesson (SLR 1 & 2). The mechanics of yielding of the Holy Spirit have been developed from Romans 6:6, 11, & 13 and Romans 12:1-3 and described by the acronym KRY ("know", "reckon", and "yield" from the KJV terminology used in Romans 6:6, 11, and 13). More foundational than any other category within the divine dynasphere is this category of yieldedness to the Holy Spirit. Without a yielded attitude, the believer cannot begin to appropriate any of the other seven characteristics and thereby fulfill the exhortation in Ephesians 5:18 to be "filled with the character of Christ by means of the Holy Spirit" as that passage is more appropriately translated (see lessons SLR 1 & 2). These eight characteristics are an effective means of studying the character of Christ that we are to appropriate. In other words, they describe the character of Christ in the believer.

Briefly, yieldedness to the Holy Spirit is giving deference to divine viewpoint in one's soul instead of human viewpoint and placing oneself at the disposal of the Holy Spirit for divine guidance in life in regard to ministry to others. A couple of brief review points will suffice for the purpose of this study:

- The Type #2 filling of the Holy Spirit is associated with Christian character which results in service.
- The believer who is not yielded to the Holy Spirit has what is tantamount to anarchy in the soul.