**Purpose and Meaning of Giving the Holy Spirit**

**Date:** November 9, 1975
**Source:** https://pastorbilllehman.org/audio-sermons/

**Main Point 1: The Gap Between God and Man Must Be Bridged**

**Time Stamp:** [00:00:55]

The fundamental obstacle in genuine Christianity is the separation that sin has created between God and humanity. Pastor Lehman emphasizes that it's not sufficient to merely have sins forgiven—God still remains remote and distant from man. The speaker explains that while Adam and Eve enjoyed God's presence in the Garden of Eden, sin created a barrier that Christianity must bridge. This restoration requires more than right doctrines, correct behavior, good understanding, or even forgiveness. It demands "Emmanuel"—God with us—a actual presence and relationship where God dwells with humanity as He did originally. Without this divine presence, believers remain helpless and vulnerable to Satan's temptations, lacking the life and power that comes only through union with Christ.

**Self-Introspection Questions:**

1. In what ways do you still feel separated from God despite knowing about forgiveness, and what does this reveal about your understanding of salvation?
2. How often do you seek God's presence versus seeking His help, and what might this indicate about whether you truly believe you need God Himself rather than just His assistance?
3. When you face temptation or spiritual struggles, do you rely primarily on your own efforts and knowledge, or do you actively seek the empowering presence of God?

**Main Point 2: Christ's Glorification Enables the Holy Spirit's Coming**

**Time Stamp:** [00:13:44]

The glorification of Jesus as a human being was essential for the giving of the Holy Spirit. When Christ ascended to heaven and was enthroned at the Father's right hand, this marked the first time in history that a human being had rightfully earned a place in heaven through perfect righteousness. Jesus, as both God and man, was exalted not merely as divinity (which had always been glorified) but specifically in His humanity. This glorification was God's acceptance of Christ's perfect atonement for all human sin. The Pentecostal outpouring was heaven's communication signal that Christ's inauguration was complete and that He had received all authority in heaven and earth. The Holy Spirit's presence with believers serves as evidence and assurance that they are accepted in Christ, just as Christ was accepted by the Father after bearing all human sin.

**Self-Introspection Questions:**

1. Do you truly believe that Christ's work was completely successful in removing the barrier between you and God, or do you still feel you need to add something to make yourself acceptable?
2. How does understanding that a human being (Jesus) now sits enthroned in heaven change your perspective on your own potential relationship with God?
3. When you experience the Holy Spirit's presence in your life, do you recognize it as God's confirmation that you are fully accepted, or do you still doubt your standing before Him?

**Main Point 3: Receiving the Holy Spirit Through Simple Belief**

**Time Stamp:** [00:47:07]

The reception of the Holy Spirit is remarkably simple, requiring only genuine thirst for God and belief in Jesus Christ. Drawing from John 7:37-39, Pastor Lehman emphasizes that Jesus said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." The complexity often attributed to receiving the Holy Spirit is human-made; God is more willing to give the Holy Spirit than parents are to give good gifts to their children (Luke 11:13). The only barriers are lack of spiritual thirst (being satisfied with lesser things) and unbelief (doubting that God is truly this good and gracious). Since Christ has accomplished everything necessary for salvation and the Father has accepted His work, the Holy Spirit desires to dwell within believers as evidence of their adoption into God's family. The struggle lies not in God's unwillingness but in human unbelief about the extent of divine grace.

**Self-Introspection Questions:**

1. What are you thirsting for in your spiritual life, and are you willing to come to Jesus as the only source that can truly satisfy that longing?
2. In what ways does unbelief about God's goodness and grace prevent you from experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit's presence in your daily life?
3. How do you respond when you consider that God wants to dwell with you even more than you want Him to, and what barriers might you be unconsciously maintaining?

**In Closing:** I encourage you to listen to his audio sermons for keen insights, deeper nuggets, and delicate nuances that he has crafted into his message. Be prepared to share your insights.

Blessings,
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