

Book *4* in the series  
*Steps to Personal Revival*



FROM LACK  
TO ABUNDANCE:

*How to have more  
of the Holy Spirit*

*I wish "that He would grant you,  
according to the riches of His glory,  
to be strengthened with might  
through His Spirit in the inner man."*

*Ephesians 3:16*

HELMUT HAUBEIL

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FROM LACK  
TO ABUNDANCE:

*How to have more  
of the Holy Spirit*

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Neal C. Wilson,  
President of the General Conference from 1979-1990:  
**Something is missing**

*I have to admit that in spite of the progress  
and victory in so many areas, that I am increasingly  
convinced that something is missing.  
We don't conform enough to God's wonderful expectations  
for each of us personally and collectively as a church.*  
(Adventist Review, Jan. 4, 1990, p. 2)

*Neal C. Wilson continues and emphasizes  
that he believes that what is missing  
is being filled with the Holy Spirit.*  
(Dennis Smith, Spirit Baptism & Evangelism, p. 4)

#### **A word to leaders and pastors:**

*“And He Himself [Christ] gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”* (Ephesians 4:11) Through God's grace and calling particular importance is laid on us for building up the church. **I am very happy that this booklet contains testimonies from leaders and pastors about their experiences with the Holy Spirit.** As probably one of the oldest, active pastors, I would like to encourage my colleagues to progress regarding the abundance of the Holy Spirit. A great responsibility was laid on us at our ordination: *“I have made you a watchman.”* (Ezekiel 33 and 34) I am thankful that the Holy Spirit is *“the Spirit of might”* (Isaiah 11:2), who together with Christ carries us. But I also think of the admonition: *“The Lord will not allow His work to be hindered, even though the workmen may prove unworthy. God has men in reserve ...”* (E. G. White, *Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 271.3) We want to move forward with God *“... who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 15:57)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **NEAL C. WILSON, GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT 1990: SOMETHING IS MISSING ..... 4**

#### CHAPTER 1

### **RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH ..... 7**

*Closing the Gaps*

*The Lack of the Holy Spirit has Disastrous Consequences ..... 8*

*How can we receive the wealth and close the gaps? ..... 9*

*Receiving by Faith – How does that work? ..... 11*

*Jesus' Example ..... 12*

*Ellen G. White and Pastors ..... 13*

*A Competent Pastoral Leader 1999 ..... 14*

*Our Losses due to a Lack of the Holy Spirit greatly Concern me ..... 16*

*Examples: What are we partially or completely missing  
because we aren't filled with the Holy Spirit? ..... 17*

*Testimonies..... 19*

#### CHAPTER 2

### **REASONS FOR THE DEFICIENCY, CONSEQUENCES AND THE SOLUTION ..... 20**

*What are the fundamental reasons for this serious deficiency? ..... 20*

*Neglect of the Holy Spirit in Teachings and Proclamation ..... 20*

*What development can we observe in our church? ..... 21*

*Consequences in Christian Theology ..... 23*

*Examples of Inaccurate Translations ..... 23*

*What has developed from these weak points in the translation? ..... 24*

*The Half-true and Half-mistaken View about being Filled  
with the Holy Spirit ..... 24*

*The Solution to the Problem ..... 25*

*What does this mean in practice? ..... 25*

*What means have been provided for our spiritual life? ..... 26*

<i>Our more Intensive Pursuit of the Holy Spirit Started around 1980</i> .....	27
<i>Are we devoting sufficient time to the main issue or are we by and large mostly concerned with minor matters?</i> .....	28
<i>Who decides?</i> .....	29
<i>Our God continually Emphasizes the Main Issue:</i>	
<i>The Necessity of being in a New Life</i> .....	29
<i>Why do we have a personal deficiency?</i> .....	30
<i>Testimonies</i> .....	30

### CHAPTER 3

<b>A FURTHER OVERLOOKED FACTOR: DAILY</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<i>What do others have to say about the necessity of being daily filled?</i> .....	34
<i>The Path to Happiness</i> .....	36
<i>Testimonies</i> .....	37

### CHAPTER 4

<b>WHAT BRINGS THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO MY LIFE? .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>What does everything depend on?</i> .....	41
<i>How can we abide in Jesus?</i> .....	41
<i>Is surrendering our lives an expectation of Jesus, which is going too far?</i> .....	42
<i>What about the believers, who have already died?</i> .....	42
<i>What is personal revival?</i> .....	43
<i>Revival in Three Steps</i> .....	43
<i>Testimonies</i> .....	45

### CHAPTER 5

<b>WILL WE FOLLOW JESUS NOW? .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<i>The Main Obstacle: Pride and Prejudice</i> .....	47

### APPENDIX

<b>TESTIMONY OF DWIGHT NELSON</b>	
<i>How my life changed because of the book "Steps to Personal Revival" ....</i>	49
<i>Testimony</i> .....	50
<b>RECOMMENDED LITERATURE</b> .....	<b>51</b>

# RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH

*Closing the crucial gap*

## **RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH**

Mr. Yates had a sheep farm, which barely earned enough for him to pay his mortgage. One day, someone from an oil drilling company came and asked for permission to do some test drilling on his land. At the depth of 365 meters an enormous oil deposit was found. Mr. Yates was a multi-millionaire and didn't know it.

Our wealth is a new and fulfilled life here and eternal life in glory through a complete surrender to Jesus Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit. We can only receive this life through our fundamental relationship with Jesus and the resulting relationship with the Holy Spirit. These are the key factors, the basic elements of biblical-Christian faith. Only through these do we receive new and eternal life. Everything else in faith is secondary and can give us no life. More about this later.

Can the same thing happen to us like Mr. Yates, when we don't know about or discern God's offer of life?

"The spiritual life of many Christians is at an alarmingly low level. It doesn't reflect any of the wealth, power or glory that the Spirit wants to give them. The fullness of the Spirit is here, but we don't live from His fullness. But God wants us to be 'filled with all the fullness of God' (Ephesians 3:19 NKJV). What can we do to keep pace with the Holy Spirit?"<sup>1</sup>

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1 Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes*, Lüneburg 1999, p. 108

## Closing the Gaps

To what end did God call the Seventh-Day-Adventists?

*“Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called **Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.**” (Isaiah 58:12 NIV)*

Our wonderful God has called us out of His mercy to repair or close the gap of the ‘Sabbath’. It is important to note that the text speaks about walls in the plural form. Haven’t we also been called to close the greatest gap today – the lack of the Holy Spirit? Yes, we have this duty: **“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.”** (*The Great Controversy*, p. 464.1)

What distinguished the apostolic times? Every individual as well as the church lived and served through the wisdom, leading and power of the Holy Spirit.

If someone would like to have more information about this perceptible and grave gap, then I would recommend reading the books noted in the footnote (see footnote <sup>2</sup>)

### The Lack of the Holy Spirit has Disastrous Consequences

Some important substances are “vital”. If there is a deficiency, then every available good and worthwhile thing is of no avail. This essential substance has to be supplied. The Bible points out such a severe deficiency of a “vital substance” in Romans 8:9:

**“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” (NKJV)**

Without the Holy Spirit we are not saved. During spiritual rebirth He is the one who gives us new life (Titus 3:5 “... *through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*” NKJV). Jesus said in John 3:3-8 NKJV: **“Unless one is born of water [a symbol for baptism about our surrender to Jesus] and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”**; exactly the

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2 *Adventism’s Greatest Need – The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit* (2011) by Ron E. M. Clouzet – see p. 5 – and *The Missing Power* (2017) by Paulo Macena – see p. 5 – or also *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, Chapter 19 (TM 174) (1891) by E.G. White – a brief excerpt is also on p. 3.



same if someone doesn't remain in the new life (John 15:4-6). Why were the foolish virgins lost? They had a lack of the Holy Spirit. They had some Holy Spirit, because their lamps burned for a time. But it was insufficient. Jesus told them: *"I do not know you."* (Matthew 25:1-13 NKJV)

What should we do, when we realize that we have a noticeable and severe deficiency? The approach God wants is in Acts 17:11 NKJV: *"... they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."* Do you want to receive this message with all readiness and verify it in the Bible?

## **How can we receive the wealth and close the gaps?**

Jesus gives us the answer: By asking for the Holy Spirit. Jesus was asked: *"Lord, teach us to pray."* (Luke 11:1 NKJV) His prayer lesson is in Luke 11:1-13. What did He emphasize? Unmistakably: the word **"ask"**. It is mentioned 18 times.

Part 1 – verses 2-4: The Lord's Prayer

Part 2 – verses 5-8: A Friend Comes at Midnight

He received visitors at midnight and realizes: I don't have anything to offer them. So, he hurries to his neighbor and persistently presses him until he gets some bread. Jesus is teaching intense pleas here. **Asking until we receive**. Our daily requests should be made by praying with promises (Luke 11:13; Luke 9:23; 2 Peter 1:3-4), so that we have the daily assurance that we have received what we have prayed for. At the beginning of our daily prayer of surrender and asking for the Holy Spirit we need persistency and perseverance. Then, Jesus connects this parable with the central statement "I have nothing" to an unparalleled call:

Part 3 – verses 9-13: Ask for the Holy Spirit

*"So I say to you, **ASK**, and it will be given to you; **SEEK**, and you will find; **KNOCK**, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who **ASKS** receives, and he who **SEEKS** finds, and to him who **KNOCKS** it will be opened. If a son **ASKS** for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he **ASKS** for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he **ASKS** for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil,*

*know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ASK Him!” (NKJV) (In Greek – continuously asking)*

Jesus emphasizes asking 6 times in His prayer lesson. The last “ask” is in the continuous tense in Greek. This means: not only asking once, but rather continually asking. Jesus gave us a personal example of this: He prayed daily to receive the Holy Spirit. We can be certain every day that our request for the Holy Spirit has been fulfilled by faith – if we daily live in complete surrender to Jesus and by praying with promises to receive the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13; Luke 9:23; 2 Peter 1:4). Another assurance that we have received the Holy Spirit is found in the following promise of God:

*“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15 NKJV)*

### **Receiving by Faith – How does that work?**

Prayers, which are based on spiritual promises, are definitely answered for each believer (1 John 5:14-15; 2 Peter 1:4). How this takes place became clear to me after praying with people, who wanted to be free from tobacco / alcohol. They were **free from the moment they prayed by faith for it** (John 8:36 – in more detail in *Letter to Andrew No. 5* - [www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info) ). But they didn’t notice anything at all at that moment. They were free “by faith” – trusting that God would keep His word. After this prayer, they no longer prayed for deliverance and yet after a few hours, they noticed that they no longer craved their addictive substance. At this time, they experienced it in practice and “had the petition”. This shows that after they “received by faith”, God worked quietly in them and removed the problem. At some point they then noticed it.

When we ask for the Holy Spirit and trust that God will keep His promise, we immediately receive Him “by faith”. We trust God’s assurance. After this prayer, the Holy Spirit works in us. We notice the answer immediately with some requests, others we notice during the course of the day. (I often don’t notice anything special, but rather only that everything went well.) With

other requests, such as reformation of my character, I won't notice until some weeks later. In any case, we can know that our prayers of faith have already been answered as soon as we prayed. Then the Lord works through His Spirit in us and for us. At the right time – God's time – we will notice it in a very practical way.

In Luke 11:9-13 Jesus not only emphasizes that asking is extremely urgent, but also expects us to do this continuously. He knew: *“the inward man is being renewed day by day.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV)

Through His imploring plea, He definitely wants to awaken our yearning for the Holy Spirit. His loving and urgent invitation shows us that according to His knowledge something significant is missing, if we don't continually or daily ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Yes, we absolutely need the Holy Spirit so that we can be born again Christians and so we can lead a new life with Jesus. Jesus doesn't only want us to sporadically receive the rich blessings of the Holy Spirit, but by perseveringly asking daily we can experience it constantly, always, without ceasing!

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' greatest gift, which brings all the other gifts in its train. This gift was Jesus' crowning present to His disciples and was clear proof of His love. I think we can easily understand that **no one would resent such a valuable gift. It is only given to those, who express a great desire for this gift – through earnest prayer – and appreciate it.** And then something wonderful happens, because a continuous life in the Holy Spirit is very attractive and eventful. (For more particulars about praying with promises and how it works see: *Steps to Personal Revival*, chapter 5.)

### Jesus' Example

After Jesus' baptism, He prayed for the Holy Spirit: *“... it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended ... upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’”* (Luke 3:21-22 NKJV)

Jesus wanted to live and serve through the Holy Spirit.

Ellen G. White said: “Morning by morning he communicated with his Father in heaven, receiving from him daily a fresh baptism [filling] of the Holy Spirit.” (*The Signs of the Times*, Nov. 21, 1895, par. 3) Jesus is our

example. We have to ask ourselves: When even Jesus needed the Holy Spirit daily, how much more urgently do I need Him?

Jesus said about the purpose of His coming: *“I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!”* (Luke 12:49-50 NKJV) Here Jesus shows us: The purpose of His coming to earth was to kindle the fire of the Holy Spirit. However, this wouldn’t take place until after His death. We all know that this took place after His ascension on the day of Pentecost. Jesus completed His work of salvation in 3 ½ years and the Holy Spirit has been preserving, fostering and completing this work in Jesus’ place for the past 2,000 years. We can clearly see that not only is our fundamental relationship with Jesus necessary, but also our relationship with the Holy Spirit. This should empower the *“renewing of the Holy Spirit”* (Titus 3:5 NKJV) and to carry the gospel to the whole world. Ellen G. White said: *“What we need is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Without this, we are no more fitted to go forth to the world than were the disciples after the crucifixion of their Lord.”* (*The Review and Herald*, Feb. 18, 1890, par. 13)

Jesus’ last “word” on this earth was: *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses ...’ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”* (Acts 1:8-9 NKJV)

His last word from heaven to Laodicea is: *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* (Revelation 3:22 NKJV)

I think we all agree: We want to be filled with His grace and His Spirit as His witnesses and listen to Him. Without surrendering to Christ, the Holy Spirit can only work on us for conversion.

Who answers our request for the Holy Spirit?

*“... Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”* (John 1:33 NKJV) This means that Jesus is the only one, who can baptize (fill) us with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is necessary to first surrender our lives to Jesus so that we can receive the Holy Spirit.

## Ellen G. White and Pastors

She made an earnest appeal to pastors, because they had **neglected** to teach and preach about **asking for the Holy Spirit**.

She showed that pastors have for the most part neglected that which is crucial for the church. She wrote under this heading the following: **“The Power of the Holy Spirit Awaits Our Demand and Reception.”** An excerpt:

“Just prior to His leaving His disciples for the heavenly courts, Jesus encouraged them with the promise of the Holy Spirit. This promise belongs as much to us as it did to them ... **In consequence of this silence upon this most important theme, what promise do we know less about by its practical fulfillment than this rich promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, whereby efficiency is to be given to all our spiritual labor?** The promise of the Holy Spirit is casually brought into our discourses, is incidentally touched upon, and that is all. Prophecies have been dwelt upon, doctrines have been expounded; but that which is essential to the church in order that they may grow in spiritual strength and efficiency, in order that the preaching may carry conviction with it, and souls be converted to God, **has been largely left out of ministerial effort.** This subject has been set aside, as if some time in the future would be given to its consideration ... Through the cunning devices of the enemy the minds of God’s people seem to be incapable of comprehending and appropriating the promises of God.” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 174.1-2)

We have to ask ourselves: Has it changed in the meantime? What is the situation like today? Do we preach about the Holy Spirit, do we teach about it in Bible classes and baptismal classes?

**Arthur G. Daniells** was a pastor, evangelist, missionary (for 14 years), school founder, conference president and the longest acting president of the general conference (21 years). Three years after this he wrote:

“Our Advent movement is indeed divine and will one day triumph gloriously; heaven has indeed appointed its organization, so that the individual departments work together like the wheels of a clock. Nevertheless, **they only work unsatisfactorily when the Holy Spirit is missing**, who would enable them to a greater effectiveness. Because these wheels are made up of men and women. God doesn’t baptize an organization, but rather men and women; **not until they have the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives**, can this machinery inexorably fulfill its purpose. **Each person has to**

experience this personally, before they can experience it together. This is why we so desperately need God's care!"<sup>3</sup> (Emphasis on author)

### **A Competent Pastoral Leader 1999**

**Johannes Mager** was a leading pastor and evangelist in former East Germany. In 1974 he was called to be a docent for systematic theology at Friedensau (Doctor of Ministry, Andrews University, USA). After that, he was ministerial secretary of the Euro-African-Division, in Bern, Switzerland for 14 years (1981-1995) until his retirement; he remained a guest docent at Friedensau until 2003. He had a special interest in the work of the Holy Spirit and Sabbath theology. He wrote two books about the Holy Spirit. (Taken from the obituary released by the Friedensau Adventist University on May 14, 2019). He wrote:

“Paul differentiates between spiritual and carnal Christians – between those, who are filled by the Spirit and those, who have given the Spirit no room in their lives (baptized by the Spirit, but not filled by the Spirit).

This means for a pastor: I can have a well-grounded theological education, be well-versed in the original biblical languages and skillfully practice exegetical methods; I can have intellectually understood and accepted all the great truths of the Bible and be very familiar with the dogmatic theology of different centuries; I can be on a homiletical high and preach current and true-to-life sermons – and despite all my knowledge and talents not be filled with the Holy Spirit. Books, education, good technical equipment and even charisma can become a substitute for the lack of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Preaching sermons, praying publicly, organizing church life, preparing evangelistic programs, practicing pastoral care – I can learn all of this and also do all of this without the Holy Spirit. Ellen G. White expressed this dangerous possibility as follows: ‘The reason why there is so little of the Spirit of God manifested is that ministers learn to do without it.’ (1 T 383.3) As important as a well-grounded education and systematic continuing education is for a pastor, it is even more important for him to let himself be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.”<sup>4</sup>

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3 Arthur G. Daniells, *Christus unsere Gerechtigkeit*, Hamburg 1962, p. 20 – bold sections added by author.

4 Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes*, Lüneburg 1999, p. 102-103

**Mark Finley**, July 4, 2005 to the General Conference Business Meeting:

“The Adventist church desperately needs a revival. What can we do to contribute to this? ... **Can we move a world for God, when 50% of our church members don't lead a meaningful spiritual life?** Something must be done, which surpasses our strength and possibilities, if Jesus' great commission is to be fulfilled in the whole world. God Himself will have to sovereignly intervene.”<sup>5</sup>

**Dwight Nelson**, 2005: “Our church has developed almost to the point of exhaustion admirable forms, plans and programs, but **if we don't finally admit our spiritual bankruptcy**, which has befallen too many of us pastors and leaders, then we will never leave our pro forma Christian lives. The church of the 21st century, especially the western countries, desperately needs a reformation back to the original spirituality and piety.”<sup>6</sup>

**Dennis Smith**: “I am not against plans, programs and methods. But I am afraid that we have often relied on these things to further God's work. **Plans, programs and methods will not complete God's work.** Great speakers, wonderful Christian concerts, satellite transmissions will not complete God's work. **God's Spirit will complete the work.** God's Spirit, who speaks and serves through Spirit-filled men and women.”<sup>7</sup>

*“You will succeed, not by military might or by your own strength, but by my spirit.” (Zechariah 4:6 GNT)*

I didn't start to study about the Holy Spirit until the fifth year of my ministry. I am thankful that I have received Him and have started to experience Him. However, I ask myself if in Jesus' eyes I even had the right to be a pastor back then?

I am glad about the change of thinking, which I have observed. The Northern Peru Union (about 220,000 members) planned the whole year of 2021

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5 *Missionsbrief No. 34*, Bad Aibling, March/April 2011, p. 3

6 *Missionsbrief No. 34*, Bad Aibling, March/April 2011, p. 3

7 Dennis Smith, *40 Days – Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming* (R&H, 2009), p. 61

for revival. The first thing they did was hold a large pastor's convention on revival.

The Central Brazil Conference (290,000 members in and around Sao Paulo) held amongst other things a revival week in May 2021. The pastors spoke to their churches about revival every day. On Sabbath between 4 and 6 p.m. they closed the week together with a guest speaker via Zoom, Facebook and You Tube for the whole conference.

### **Prayer Movement for Revival in Brazil**

Under the leadership of a pastor and his team in Brazil, as well as the cooperation of many pastors and leaders a prayer movement for revival was initiated in the fall of 2020. They meet online daily from 5:00 to 7:00 a.m. for prayer, to discuss revival topics and to share experiences and good news. The main things they studied were: *Steps to Personal Revival* and then the book *Daring to Ask for More – Discover for yourself the keys to answered prayers* (by Melody Mason). By God's grace this group grew swiftly. When I was invited to speak to them on December 13, 2020, 3,000 people participated. I learned from a conference president that they had printed 16,000 copies of *Steps to Personal Revival*; later a union president informed me that they had printed 26,000 copies of *Steps to Personal Revival* and 25,000 copies of *Abide in Jesus*. I was connected with them over Zoom. The message was rerouted for the majority of the participants to Facebook and YouTube. The group is called "Sala 57". This means that they meet in a virtual room from 5:00 to 7:00 a.m. Today, August 9, 2021, I received the news that the group has now grown to 10,000 daily visitors. They will soon start to study the book *Abide in Jesus*. We can only sincerely thank our Lord for this enormous blessing, for His grace and leadership and also for the daily effort of a team of pastors.

To a great degree, it depends on the pastors if the Holy Spirit can work more powerfully in the churches. May the Lord especially help us pastors, so that He can work through us as is necessary in the time of the end.

### **Our Losses due to a Lack of the Holy Spirit greatly Concern me**

Switzerland, August 14, 2011: On this day it became suddenly clear to me that we are losing many of our youth due to a lack of the Holy Spirit. This discovery shocked me – also in regards to my own family. Since then, I have



especially delved into this important topic. In the last nine years I have received many personal letters from around the world. The writers share their experiences with the revival literature (for example: *Steps to Personal Revival* and the *40-Day books*). As I read them, it becomes daily clearer to me, where the critical point of our problem lays. **This problem includes our youth, but it goes far beyond that.**

### **Examples: What we are partially or completely missing because we aren't filled with the Holy Spirit?**

- ▶ **Being filled with God's love (agape):** *"... the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."* (Romans 5:5 NKJV)
- ▶ **Deliverance from the power of sin and sinful habits:** *"For the law of the Spirit ... has made me free from the law of sin and death."* (Romans 8:2 NKJV, see also Galatians 5:16 and 1 John 5:18)
- ▶ **The fruit of the Spirit:** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."* (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV)
- ▶ **The gifts of the Spirit:** *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ... wisdom ..., ... knowledge ..., ... faith ..., ... gifts of healings ..., ... working of miracles ..., ... prophecy ..., ... discerning of spirits ..., ... different kinds of tongues ..., the interpretation of tongues."* (1 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV)
- ▶ **Greater knowledge of Jesus Christ:** *"He will glorify me ..."* (John 16:14 NKJV)
- ▶ **Assurance of salvation:** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."* (Romans 8:16 NKJV)
- ▶ **Inadequate understanding of God's will:** *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."* (Romans 8:5 NKJV)
- ▶ **We are missing intercession during prayer:** *"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."* (Romans 8:26 NKJV)
- ▶ **The life of Jesus in us through the Holy Spirit determines if we are "one" as brothers and sisters or if we are only "nice" to each other** (John 17:20-23).

- ▶ “... spiritual strength and efficiency, ... preaching may carry conviction with it, and souls be converted to God, ... greater efficiency in spiritual work.” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 174.1)
- ▶ **Without the Holy Spirit there is no new life, which leads on to eternal life.** We want to pay at least a little attention here to this main loss: (In *Steps to Personal Revival*, chapter 4: What difference can we expect? 20 different areas are discussed and it lists what benefits we have with the Holy Spirit and what losses we have without Him.)

### **Have I been born again – do I live in a new life?**

Jesus makes it categorically clear in John 3:1-8 that we cannot enter God’s kingdom without this new life, even if we were the best Bible experts in the world.

With regard to the new life, every believer has three possibilities:

- ▶ First: You have been born again and you have remained in this state – you have new life.
- ▶ Second: You have been born again and have lost this new life, probably without even noticing it.
- ▶ Third: You have not been born again and you don’t have new life.

Is it important to know if I have been born again and have new life?

Ellen G. White said: “...the most important knowledge to be gained is the experimental knowledge of what it means to be born again.” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 64.3) What is experimental knowledge? In this case, it is the knowledge that we have gained from our experiences with God. Do you consistently have experiences with God, which show you that your life has been changed or is being changed?

Do you live in complete surrender to Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit, so that God can turn towards you in His complete love, which leads you to continually have valuable experiences with Him?

If we do not have this new life or are unsure if we have it, then we can receive it now through our radical surrender to Christ and start to live in the Holy Spirit. It is a dedication to eternal love. Jesus wants to be part of our life.

We can see here that the critical factor in faith is our fundamental relationship with Jesus and the resulting relationship to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. As a result of this relationship, God effects new life in us.

In closing: We want to ask our God to lead each of us to the personal insights, which we need. May He fill our lives and service for Him with power and joy.

(In the booklet *Abide in Jesus*, chapter 2 deals with “Surrender to Jesus” and chapter 3 with “Jesus abiding in you”.)

## TESTIMONIES

**Experience of churches in Guadeloupe / Caribbean** – We bring the report about one church. The experience of the second church is also great.

Our congregation had studied the booklet *Steps to Personal Revival*. Those who attended said they had wonderful experiences and how much the message changed their lives. The booklet had prepared us well for what a sister who had moved to France told us: You are supposed to perform the Ten Days of prayer and fasting according to the book of Dennis Smith: *Ten days of prayer and devotions to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit*.

Unfortunately, not everyone felt the same desire. The church had experienced a lot in recent years and suffered from tensions and disappointments. She was cold, discouraged, quarreled and paralyzed. Sometimes you had the feeling that the message hit a concrete wall and did not reach the hearts. To our surprise, the community agreed to this proposal. Everything was organized quickly. The prayer meetings were scheduled for four o'clock in the morning. The parking lot was full every morning at four o'clock. The members began to sing songs and there was a warm spiritual atmosphere. Every morning, around 80 members (out of a total of 150) gathered for ten days. We were allowed to witness ten days before our eyes, as a church full of cold was filled with new love and how a church full of quarrels and tensions found to forgiveness and a new beginning. How a paralyzed church awakens and finds new life through the Spirit of God. The 10 days of prayer and fasting were so well received that they are now performed in this community at regular intervals.

Pastor F. H. and B. H. #84 a

**Son overcome addiction** – Can I get more brochures *Steps to personal revival*? My 14 year old son has begun to pray the Holy Spirit. He has become a different boy. He has overcome his addictions. He now lives a victorious life. We are so grateful to God as he used this little book in my son's life.

Pastor A. from Australia #77

# REASONS FOR THE DEFICIENCY, CONSEQUENCES AND THE SOLUTION

## **What are the fundamental reasons for this serious deficiency?**

We aren't asking this question with the intention of accusing someone. No, we want to find out how an existing deficiency can be remedied and the serious gap can be closed (Isaiah 58:12).

### **Neglect of the Holy Spirit in teachings and proclamation**

Quotations from competent people on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Christian theology:

**Prof. Emil Brunner**, Evangelical Reformed Theologian in Basel, Switzerland wrote that the Holy Spirit has “always more or less been the **stepchild** of theology.”<sup>8</sup>

**D. Martin Lloyd-Jones**, leading evangelical theologian, pastor at Westminster, London: “... in the past and present no other object of biblical belief has been so **neglected** as the Holy Spirit ...”<sup>9</sup>

**Wolfgang Trillhaas**, evangelical Theologian, professor of practical and systematic theology in Erlangen and Göttingen, stated that “the fear of misusing the authority of the Holy Spirit has become a dogmatic fear of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), cover

<sup>9</sup> D. Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Vollmacht*, Telos-Taschenbuch No. 385 (Marburg 1984), p. 72

<sup>10</sup> Wolfgang Trillhaas, *Dogmatik*, 3. Auflage (Berlin 1972), p. 408

**Johannes Mager**, was an Adventist university lecturer for systematic theology and was ministerial secretary for the Euro-African Division in Bern, Switzerland, died in 2019 and wrote with regards to Christian theology: "... the Holy Spirit has not been a predominant topic in theological publications. He led more of a life in the **shadows.**" So much for the teaching of the Holy Spirit in Christian theology.<sup>11</sup>

### **What development can we observe in our church?**

Ellen G. White explains how God sees and evaluates this, for example on page 13 of the article Ellen G. White and Pastors. Let's continue:

**Johannes Mager**, wrote about the development in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (here just the main points): "As Seventh-Day Adventists we look back on our own history and development regarding our understanding of the Holy Spirit. ... from the outset there was an article in **1872** about 'Spiritual Gifts and Ministry'. Different charisms (gifts) had broken out in the young Advent movement, especially the gift of prophecy in the person of Ellen G. White. Therefore, a well-founded biblical position was necessary. **But it wasn't until 1980, more than a hundred years later, that the Holy Spirit was given His rightful place** in the Fundamental Beliefs – article 5. Our present understanding of the Holy Spirit is expressed there. ... Justifiably, His work is emphasized and it speaks about the effects His works have. As important as the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for building the church, it is more important to know and experience the Holy Spirit personally and His work. Hence, we need to ask ourselves the question, how our lives can be filled by the Holy Spirit and how can our spiritual life can grow? Growth in our intellectual understanding of divine truth must go hand in hand with our growth in the Holy Spirit, in personal surrender and sanctification. Living in the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit enable us to follow Jesus."<sup>12</sup>

We will come back shortly to the consequences of this delay.

Another 20 years later – starting around the year 2000 – many good books were published on the work of the Holy Spirit, for example:

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<sup>11</sup> Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), p. 9

<sup>12</sup> Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), p. 10, 11, 13

**Ellen G. White** wrote significantly more than 2,000 times about the Holy Spirit. The Lord worked mightily through her to show our church the richness of a life in the power of the Holy Spirit. A book was published for the first time in 1995 from her many references to the Holy Spirit: *Ye Shall Receive Power*, Review and Herald.

When it was published in 1995, the Review and Herald wrote on the back cover of the book: “Almost 120 years ago the Adventist Church started to devote itself more to Jesus Christ and His righteousness. However, turning towards the Holy Spirit and His work seems to not have happened for many Adventists.” (Back cover of *Ye Shall Receive Power*, German version)

**Dennis Smith**, a pastor in the USA, has been studying the doctrine of the Holy Spirit since 1999 and wrote a whole series of books on the topic, which have been translated into many languages. He clearly shows that we absolutely have to daily pray for the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus Himself did (more about this later).

**Ron E.M. Clouzet**, ministerial secretary for the North Asian Pacific Division, wrote a book in 2011: *Adventism’s Greatest Need – The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit*. In the preface there are quotes from 17 leading Adventists, who all express that this is our great need.<sup>13</sup>

**Helmut Haubeil** – In 2012 through the initiative of the German-Swiss Conference in Zürich, a series of my sermons were published in the book *Steps to Personal Revival*, which has since been translated into 50 languages and distributed in many countries.

**Paulo Macena**, a leading pastor in the USA, wrote a book in 2017 with the title *The Missing Power*. The book was published under the copyright of the General Conference and has been distributed free of charge to the pastors in many countries. I received it as a gift in Vienna. It shows in explicit detail what the consequences of a lack of the Holy Spirit has for the church and the leaders of the church. Whoever is interested in the details should read this book (see footnote<sup>14</sup>).

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13 Ron E.M. Clouzet, *Adventism’s Greatest Need – The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit*, (PPPA 2011), *What Readers are Saying*

14 Paulo Macena, *The Missing Power*, (PPPA 2017) 167 pages. Please send all inquiries to Paulo Macena: pmacena@icloud.com www.themissingpower.com.

## Consequences in Christian Theology

As we have already seen, Christian theology has neglected the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Since the Bible translators are theologians, I realized that they could also have had an inadequate understanding of the Holy Spirit. Did this become part of the different Bible translations? We don't want to make any accusations against anyone, because some of the important passages were translated inaccurately – this wasn't done on purpose. You will see that details were ignored here. However, these “small weaknesses” have unfortunately caused great losses in our lives. And this has had a negative impact on the salvation of many of our children and other individuals.

A passenger plane in South America deviated by 3° from its course while landing. What is 3° compared to 360°? But because of this discrepancy the plane was smashed to pieces on the side of a mountain and all the passengers died. Small causes can have big effects.

### Examples of Inaccurate Translations:

In **Ephesians 5:18** in the second part it says: “... *be filled with the Spirit.*” (NKJV) Johannes Mager says in his book *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes (On the Trail of the Holy Spirit)*, p. 101, about this text:

“In the Greek language this imperative is written in the present tense. This imperative present tense describes an event, which is continually repeated – in contrast to the imperative aorist, which refers to an isolated act. **Thus, according to this being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one-time experience, but rather it is a recurring and ongoing process.** A Christian is not like a vessel, which is filled once and for all, but rather **has to constantly let itself be ‘refilled’**. So, the sentence could also be translated this way: ***‘Let yourselves be continually and always refilled with the Spirit!’***”

This isn't discernable in the Bible translations. They say: “... be filled with the Spirit.” It isn't clear that this is a process that has to be constantly repeated. (Emphasized author)

In **Luke 11:13** (NKJV) Jesus said: “*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*” What wasn't translated accurately in this text? In Greek the word “ask” is in the continuous tense, which means: *continuously asking, daily asking*. **This is also not apparent in the translation.**

**Galatians 5:16** (NKJV) says: “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” We have the same problem here. The Greek uses the continuous tense here also. It shouldn’t say “walk in the Spirit”, but rather walk continually and constantly in the Holy Spirit. **This isn’t evident in this translation.**

**Acts 13:52** says: The disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. See Frank Hasel’s full quote of Jan 30, 2017, on page 34.

In **Romans 8:14** NKJV is written: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”. Dennis Smith writes: With the infilling of the Spirit the believer is led by the Spirit. Paul writes of the importance of this being a daily experience when he states this. Again the verb form in the Greek is continuous action. Paul is saying, “as many as are continuing to be led daily by the Spirit of God.” Hence, we must receive the Spirit everyday to be led by Him everyday. Claiming the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit must become one of the first things we do when we awake in the morning.<sup>15</sup> **This isn’t evident in this translation.**

**Acts 5:32: His Mission for Believers.** The majority of texts concerning the Holy Spirit pertain to His relationship with God’s people. His sanctifying influence leads to obedience (1 Peter 1:2), but no one continues to experience His abiding presence without meeting certain conditions. Peter said God has given the Spirit to those who continuously obey Him (Acts 5:32). Thus, believers are warned about resisting, grieving, and quenching the Spirit (Acts 7:51; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19).

(*Seventh-day Adventists Believe* © 1988 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, R&H, p. 63)

## **What has developed from these weak points in the translation?**

You can’t learn from these translations that a constantly repeating and daily filling with the Holy Spirit is important. As a result, many assume that being filled with the Holy Spirit is a one-time occurrence. A number of Bible texts seem to support this viewpoint. Consequently, it results in a partially correct and partially false viewpoint.

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15 D. Smith, *10 Days – Prayers and Devotions to experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit*, p. 37



## **The Half-true and Half-mistaken View about being filled with the Holy Spirit**

Acts 2:38 NKJV: “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

This text confirms that we have received the Holy Spirit at our baptism, when it was carried out in complete surrender to Jesus.

In John 14:17 Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit to come: “... for he dwells with you, and will be in you.”

Based on these two biblical statements, we could definitely conclude that: **I received the Holy Spirit at my baptism and Jesus promised that He would stay in me.** Thus, the belief can arise that asking daily for the Holy Spirit is *unnecessary*. It could even be said that asking daily is overdoing it. I assume that most pastors and church members think this way.

The texts, which I cited showing the unaccurate translation, don't contradict the half-true and half-false view of asking for the Holy Spirit, but actually concur with it. **AS A RESULT, THIS PROBLEM COULDN'T EVEN BE NOTICED BY BIBLE READERS.** Might this have been a clever move by the evil one? But when we pay attention to the exact and correct translation, then we will discover a contradiction here: **If I were permanently filled with the Holy Spirit since my baptism, why should I daily ask for Him?**

### **The Solution to the Problem**

How can this apparent contradiction be solved?

Ellen G. White commented:

**“As in the natural, so in the spiritual world.** The natural life is preserved moment by moment by divine power; yet it is not sustained by a direct miracle, but through the use of blessings placed within our reach. **So the spiritual life is sustained by the use of those means that Providence has supplied.”** (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 284.2)

### **What does this mean in practice?**

First, let's take a look at our natural life:

We received this life at our birth and it was God's intention that it remain in us for a lifetime. We are programmed for “daily”. We can't eat ahead for the next days. In order to preserve our life, our strength and our health, we

normally eat every day, we drink, sleep, exercise, etc. If for one day we eat only a little or nothing or eat something unhealthy or don't get enough sleep, etc., we don't die immediately. Life still remains in us. But we suffer a deficiency. If we continued to live in this manner, we could then get sick or die.

Now, for our spiritual life: We received our spiritual life when we surrendered ourselves to Jesus, which should be evidenced with our baptism. The Lord gave us this spiritual life with the intention of it remaining in us for a lifetime. But *it doesn't automatically remain* in us.

Ellen G. White said: "So the spiritual life is sustained by the use of those means that Providence has supplied." (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 284.2)

### **What means have been provided for our spiritual life?**

We cannot stock up on the Holy Spirit. We should daily implement the two basic elements of spiritual life. We find them in being born **of water** (a symbol for surrendering ourselves to Jesus) **and of the Spirit** (John 3:1-8). Precisely these two elements are the condition for abiding in Jesus and for revival.

"Abide in Me, and I in you." (John 15:4 NKJV)

Abiding in Christ means:

- ▶ A constant receiving of His Spirit
- ▶ A life of unreserved surrender
- ▶ To His service. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 676.2)

We should remember that belief in Jesus is much more than an intellectual and theoretical acceptance of a teaching. Belief means: out of love and trust we surrender our whole life to Jesus. In John 1:12-13 "faith" is defined "as receiving Jesus" as Savior and Lord and "born ... of God".

If we want to maintain our spiritual life, then it is right to daily confirm or to renew our fundamental surrender to Jesus (Luke 9:23-26; 2 Corinthians 4:16). Moreover, it is important to **daily ask in complete confidence** to God to be filled with the Holy Spirit and it is best to do this using a promise (for example Luke 11:13, 2 Peter 1:4); so that we can have the assurance of receiving the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit is vital to the existence of our spiritual life, since Christ lives in me through Him** (John 13:20; John 14:16-18; Ephesians 3:16-17). He gives me delight in prayer and a desire for God's word. Other important means are Bible study and prayer, giving witness of my faith, serving in love my family, church members, neighbors, friends and "enemies". Also, active participation in church life and church services

promotes our “spiritual health”. If I don’t do this, or only halfheartedly or only partially or only occasionally do it, then my spiritual life isn’t immediately “dead”. But we grieve the Holy Spirit with this kind of lifestyle. We are explicitly warned of this in Ephesians 4:30. If the Holy Spirit withdraws from us, then we will become spiritually weak and sick. We will become “foolish virgins”, who haven’t been filled or haven’t been filled enough with the Holy Spirit and we will not be admitted to the wedding. Then the Bible calls us “spiritually dead”, although we may still be very active for God in our own strength. This is the diagnosis that the church of Ephesus received in the first epistle of Jesus (Revelation 2:1-7). They were active and industrious, and yet they had lost their “first love” for Jesus – a symptom for a deficiency or loss of the Holy Spirit. Jesus warned that He would remove their lampstand from its place, if they weren’t willing to repent (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:16-17; Revelation 2:5; also Matthew 7:21-23).

Johannes Mager explains:

The fullness of the Holy Spirit, which we received at baptism, **can be lost** if we **do not hold on to it**. The process of being filled has to be repeated so that the Holy Spirit can occupy all areas of our life and so that our spiritual life doesn’t fade and wither away. Being filled with the Spirit doesn’t mean that we quantitatively have more of Him, but rather that the Spirit **always has more of us**. That is why Paul commanded all the believers (Ephesians 5:18) to continually be filled with the Spirit. This is the normal state of a Christian for him. **One baptism – but being filled many times.**<sup>16</sup> (Emphasized author)

## **Our more Intensive Pursuit of the Holy Spirit Started around 1980**

What has resulted in the fact that we as a church have strongly turned towards the work of the Holy Spirit only since 1980?

I think that we couldn’t even notice our deficit until then, since the lack of knowledge and the same circumstances existed before us. And if someone did notice it, then the question is if they could even identify the cause. I am thinking about the problem of the inaccurate Bible passage translations here. Furthermore, the question is if we have even gained this new knowledge and if we have, then are we open enough to verify this using the Bible.

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<sup>16</sup> Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg 1999), p. 101-102

The opinion used to prevalently prevail that we were filled with the Holy Spirit for a lifetime at our baptism. Thus, the necessity of praying for the early rain wasn't sufficiently discerned. This is also evident from the fact that the General Conference repeatedly made calls for prayer for the later rain. I remember this well, because I always took part in it. But Laodicean Christians first need the early rain.

When we study Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, then we have to conclude that about half of the church is affected by this deficit. The foolish virgins no doubt have a little of the Holy Spirit, because their lamps burned at the start. But they had too little oil: "... for our lamps are going out." (Matthew 25:8 NKJV) They had a lack of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they had no part of Jesus, no personal relationship. Jesus didn't "know" them and they were lost.

### **Are we devoting sufficient time to the main issue or are we by and large mostly concerned with minor matters?**

"The promise of the gift of the Spirit of God is left as a matter to be little considered by the church. It is not impressed upon the people ... Minor matters occupy the mind and soul ... Just as long as the church are satisfied with small things, they are disqualified to receive the great things of God." (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 10.3)

Ellen G. White carefully shows us here that we are occupied with minor matters, because we have not devoted ourselves enough to the gift of the Holy Spirit. Naturally, we have to pay attention to many things. But is the main thing really the focus of everything we do? Do we devote proper attention to the main issue and everything else comes second?

**Jesus unmistakably shows in John 3:1-8 and John 15:1-8 that without being born again and without remaining in this new life that we will neither have new life here nor have the eternal life to come.**

And this has to do with a life in complete and continual surrender to Christ and continually being filled with the Holy Spirit. There is no other way we can receive new life. This means that this is the main issue after all.

**Doesn't this clearly show that we generally don't devote enough time to the main issue? Isn't it clear here that we are predominantly occupied with minor matters?**

When the main issue is clear, then the “minor matters” are given a new meaning. Many things will increase in meaning, while others will become less important. Maybe our decisions are based on what we think we know God wants from us, instead of taking heed to His directives for our life. The words of Joshua in Joshua 1:7-9 and the closing words of the Bible in Revelation 22:18-19 still apply today how we follow Jesus and how we deal with God’s word.

### **Who decides?**

Are we doing it like Joshua did with the Gibeonites? *“They did not ask the counsel of the Lord.”* (Joshua 9:14 NKJV) The result: they were fooled! Or are we doing it like David: David inquired of the Lord and He answered him. (Four times in one situation: 1 Samuel 23:2.4.10.12) More information on how we can know God’s will is in the footnote.<sup>17</sup>

### **Our God continually Emphasizes the Main Issue: The Necessity of being in a New Life**

The new life is portrayed with several different expressions: Examples:

- born again (John 3:3)
- born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5)
- born of the Spirit (John 3:6)
- born of the Spirit (John 3:8)
- in Christ, in Him (170 x in the N. T.)
- born of God (1 John 5:4,18)
- have eternal life (1 John 5:13)
- partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)
- abide in Him (John 15:4-7)
- believes the Son (John 3:36)
- he who does the truth (John 3:21)
- who overcomes or conquers (7 x in Revelation 2 and 3, Romans 8:37)
- sow to the Spirit (Galatians 6:8)
- believes in Him (John 3:14-18)
- by grace saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)

I am convinced that there are still more expressions, which show us the necessity of living in a new life. All these texts show us by what means we

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<sup>17</sup> [www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info) – right column – video sermons with Helmut Haubel on *Steps to Personal Revival, No 4: How can I know the will of my God for my personal decisions?*

are saved. It is important that we consider all these statements and pay heed to their correlations. The expression most used today is definitely: we are saved by faith. Unfortunately, this term has been watered-down a lot. I once made a search in the internet for “faith according to the Bible” and a very clear answer came: to entrust oneself to someone, to connect your existence to someone, to depend on someone, to be faithful to someone. It is a matter of entrusting yourself to Jesus, connecting your existence to Jesus, depending on Jesus and being faithful to Jesus. We only believe in Jesus, even though the others expressions do apply, for example, when I am born of the Spirit, abide in Christ, live in a new life, am obedient to the Son, do the truth, etc.

### **Why do we have a personal deficiency?**

Jesus emphasizes in His loving and urgent call using different words ten times to show that we should continually ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9-13). Why do we have a deficiency?

What does God word say in James 4:2 (NKJV)?

“You ... do not have ... because you do not ask.” Verse 3 (NIV): “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives ...” (without complete surrender to Christ). This is certainly the main reason for the deficiency.

## TESTIMONIES

### **WHAT DO LEADERS, PASTORS AND THEOLOGIANS SAY?**

**A gift from heaven** – Your work on *Steps to Personal Revival* is really a gift from heaven – first to you and through you to all the readers. Therefore, I have first thanked the Lord and now you. My heartfelt thanks for this! Although, several very practical and spiritually deep books have been published in the church recently, *Steps to Personal Revival* is extraordinary. The way to being filled with the Holy Spirit is portrayed in a compact and yet quite detailed manner. Whoever reads it cannot get around making a spiritual inventory and making a decision.

H. H. #01

**A converted pastor** – First of all, thanks for writing the book *Steps to Personal Revival*. I just finished reading it and recording it as an audiobook, which has given me a completely new perception of what it means to be a Christian, a leader and a pastor. I have even come to the conclusion that the way I lived made me part of the group of the five foolish virgins. I cried for hours and had a sleepless night. It was painful, but now I have such assurance and a great blessing that the Holy Spirit has filled my heart. I wish I could explain what a miracle it is for me. As when Jesus entered the temple in Jerusalem and cleansed it, I realized that God's Spirit cleansed my spirit in one night with His presence from certain thoughts and feelings, which it would have taken me years to do myself.

I noticed that there wasn't a Spanish version of the audiobook. That is why I read it from the screen from the PDF and recorded it so that anyone can listen to it while reading it. It is very powerful and doubles the blessing, because it is easier to memorize the concepts and ideas. It is available in YouTube. Thank you! I will see you in heaven.

N. C. a converted pastor – from USA. #151

**University president** – for anyone interested: In July 2018 I was blessed to receive an English copy of the book *Steps to Personal Revival* while attending a ministerial meeting in the USA. I began to read it and on my return to Colombia I felt compelled to share with colleagues and others from the Adventist University Corporation, where I served as rector, some of the great truths about the person and the work of the Holy Spirit that are biblically documented in the aforementioned book. Last year (2020) I had the joy of receiving several copies of this book in Spanish ... I am pleased to record the great spiritual benefits that my family and I have obtained from reading it. This timely reflection on the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and in the church have been an inspiration to me for the elaboration of sermons and reflections presented in various congregations and prayer groups. We shared the book with several theology students at the university and they have informed me of several mornings of study, prayer and witness involving students and teachers, which have spiritually enriched the lives of the participants. I believe that this book should be read and reread by all of us, who are part of the church in this solemn time in the history of the world, when under the power of the Spirit, each inhabitant of planet earth must know the wonderful love of God and the soon return of Jesus.

Dr. Abraham A. Acosta Bustillo, June 16, 2021 #162

# A FURTHER OVERLOOKED FACTOR: DAILY

Jesus said to His disciples in Luke 9:23-25 (NKJV) about discipleship: :

*“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **DAILY**, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save **his** life will lose it, but whoever loses **his** life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?’”*

Jesus speaks here about our discipleship: “*If anyone desire to come after Me ...*” He shows us that it has to do with a fundamental surrender of our life to Him and a **daily** renewal or affirmation. “*If anyone desire to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **DAILY**, and follow Me.*” To deny yourself means to reject **SELF** and joyfully and voluntarily submit ourselves to Jesus in everything. (“... *whoever loses **his** life for My sake ...*”) Taking up his cross can mean the same thing. It can also mean being willing to accept difficulties for the sake of faith.

Jesus advocated daily discipleship. I have the impression that we often don't realize in regards to our spiritual life that we are inherently programmed for **daily**. Our whole lives are shaped by the rhythm of a day with 24 hours. We eat daily, drink daily, exercise daily, sleep daily, etc. It follows that the Bible says the following about our inner man:

*“... the inward man is being renewed day by day.”*  
(2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV)



The inward man is also programmed for this daily rhythm. Paul said about himself: "... *I die daily.*" (1 Corinthians 15:31 NKJV) This then means that he experienced a daily renewal with God's help. Who programmed us with this rhythm anyway? Jesus, our creator and redeemer, programmed us for daily.

What did Jesus personally do? Ellen G. White says:

"Morning by morning he communicated with his Father in heaven, receiving from him daily a fresh baptism [infilling] of the Holy Spirit." (*The Signs of the Times*, Nov. 21, 1895, par. 3) Jesus is our example. We have to ask ourselves: When even Jesus needed the Holy Spirit every day, how much more desperately do I need Him?

Jesus shows us in the parable of the vine and branches in John 15:1-8 that we need an uninterrupted connection with Him. After Jesus praying for the Holy Spirit himself daily, we see that this creates that constant connection.

God's word clearly shows us how important it is to take advantage of today: "... *choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ...*" (Joshua 24:15 NKJV) "... *Today, if you will hear His voice.*" (Psalms 95:7 NKJV) "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" (Matthew 6:11 NKJV) Jesus: "... *today I must stay at your house.*" Zacchaeus made a decision. "*Today salvation has come to this house ...*" (Luke 19:5,9 NKJV) "... *exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today' ...*" (Hebrews 3:13 NKJV) Jesus said in the sermon on the mount: "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow ... Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*" (Matthew 6:33-34 NKJV)

Dwight Nelson, senior pastor of the church at Andrews University has written a personal testimony about the impact this book has had on his life and ministry, under the title: "How my life has been changed by the book *Steps to Personal Revival*". I find it noteworthy in his testimony that he had previously held sermon series on the Holy Spirit, but it wasn't until he read through the book in 2017 that he experienced a great change. The breakthrough came when he realized **the necessity of daily asking for the Holy Spirit**. You can read his testimony in the appendix.

I would recommend to anyone wanting to learn more about this to read chapter three (Our Problems are Solvable) of *Steps to Personal Revival*.

## What do others have to say about the necessity of being daily filled?

First, here are three quotes, which convey the view of the worldwide church:

- ▶ Seventh-day Adventists Believe: “The baptism with the Holy Spirit [the same as being filled] is not a onetime event; we can experience it daily. But we have to plead to the Lord for this baptism, because this is the only way for the church to receive power to witness and spread the gospel.”<sup>18</sup>
- ▶ On July 17, 2014 in our worldwide **Adult Sabbath School Study Guide**, the principal contributor, **Carlos Steger**, said the following: “Baptism with the Holy Spirit means to be totally under the influence of the Spirit, completely ‘filled with the Spirit’ (Ephesians 5:18, NKJV). **This is not a ‘once and forever’ experience, but is something that needs to be constantly renewed.**”
- ▶ The following was said by principal contributor, **Frank Hasel**, in our worldwide **Adult Sabbath School Study Guide** on January 30, 2017: “While the Spirit is given by the hearing of faith (Galatians 3:2) and is received through faith (Galatians 3:14) at our baptism (Titus 3:5,6), **we need to seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit every day.** We can’t live off a powerful experience that we had last year, or last month, or even yesterday. **We need the infilling of God’s Spirit each day, for each day** brings its own challenges. In the Greek of Acts 13:52, the term *filled* with the Spirit is in the imperfect tense, signifying continuous action. It literally means: “being (continuously) filled.” Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event. It is something that we should seek and receive every day. This filling has to be repeated so that every part of our life is filled with His presence, and so we are empowered to live as we should.”

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18 *Seventh-day Adventists Believe ... A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines*, English Copyright: 1988 Ministerial Association, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, German Copyright 1996, Advent-Verlag Lüneburg, p. 311

Further Quotes from other Authors:

**David Wolkwitz**, department head at the Washington Conference, USA, wrote two books about the Holy Spirit. In around 1995 we received his extremely valuable book, *Encounter for Revival of Power*, at the Maranatha Seminars with Samuel Monnier, which was published under the copyright by the Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference. In *Encounter for Revival of Power* he says:

“To start with, we will show how important it is to be filled with the Spirit. ... In the end, we will discover that this infilling is the central point of the new covenant. We want to be aware of God’s pleading call; He wants us to receive this blessing day by day.”<sup>19</sup>

**Ekkehardt Müller**, works at the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference and wrote a book entitled: *The Doctrine of God – Biblical Findings and Theological Challenge* (Bogenhofen 2019). He says: “Moreover, it must be kept in mind that the Holy Spirit living in a person follows new birth, but it isn’t a process, which automatically takes place. The relationship has to be daily renewed.”<sup>20</sup>

**Dennis Smith**, a pastor in the USA; he is well-known by many, because he has written a series of books. He writes: “Another very important point is that we must renew this infilling of the Spirit every day. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:31: *‘I die daily.’* Death of self and the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a daily experience. It isn’t a ‘once-and-for-ever’ experience. Paul said: *‘... the inward man is being renewed day by day.’* (2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV) We need a renewal through the Spirit **every day** of our lives. Paul challenges us with the words: *‘... be filled with the Spirit.’* (Ephesians 5:18 NKJV) The verb in this verse is used in the continuous tense, which means in Greek that we should do it daily. A believer is led through the infilling of the Spirit. Paul wrote how important this daily experience is, when he said: *‘For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.’* (Romans 8:14 NKJV) Again the verb form in the Greek is continuous action. Paul is saying, *‘as many as are continuing to be led daily by the Spirit of God.’* Hence, we must receive

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19 David Wolkwitz, *Encounter for Revival of Power*, published by the personal ministries department of the General Conference, p. 102-103. No date. Section: “Be filled” (Eph 5:18)

20 Ekkehardt Müller, *Die Lehre von Gott – Biblischer Befund und Theologische Herausforderung (The Doctrine of God – Biblical Findings and Theological Challenge)*, Bogenhofen 2019, p. 224

the Spirit everyday to be led by Him everyday. Claiming the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit must become one of the first things we do when we awake in the morning.”<sup>21</sup>

**Ellen G. White:**

“For the **daily baptism** of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God.” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50.2)

“To the consecrated worker there is wonderful consolation in the knowledge that even Christ during His life on earth sought His Father daily for fresh supplies of needed grace ...” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 56.1)

What is the significance of my personal morning worship, if it is so important that I daily surrender myself to Jesus and daily ask for the infilling of the Holy Spirit? Here is a source of blessing for the whole day. Jesus said: “*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*” (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)

### **The Path to Happiness**

This two-part divine solution (surrender to Jesus and the infilling of the Holy Spirit) to our main problem – being born again and living a new life – is also the way to a happy Christian life. Why? Jesus commented in John 15:11 NKJV: “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” Through these two steps (continually receiving the Holy Spirit and living in complete surrender to Jesus and to His service) Christ lives in us and this is the path to perfect happiness. Colossians 1:27 NKJV speaks about the riches of the glory: Christ in you. It is important to renew this relationship every day during morning worship.

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<sup>21</sup> Dennis Smith, *10 Days – Prayers and Devotions to Experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit*, p. 36, 37

## TESTIMONIES

### **WHAT DO LEADERS, PASTORS AND THEOLOGIANS HAVE TO SAY?**

**Return to the first love** – Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit I was led to a much closer walk with Jesus. I experienced a return to the “first love” of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Personal changes started to take place in me, which could only stem from the indwelling of God’s Spirit. I saw a power in my ministry which I had never seen before.

D. S.

**Many are awaking from their sleep** – We advised a young woman against marrying a non-believing partner and asked her to read the book *Steps to Personal Revival*. Much to our surprise, she ordered her own copy and decided to postpone the wedding. We will soon start reading this book together and praying together at the close of Sabbath. We are also studying this book with two churches. It’s worth the effort. Many people are awakening from their sleep and are learning how important it is to pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

P. V. #102

**Conference President and Pastors** – A conference president told me that he had found the book *Steps to Personal Revival* interesting the first time he read it, but he didn’t understand everything. The second time he read it, he felt very uncomfortable – he had discovered what all he had missed due to a lack of the Holy Spirit. And the third time he read it, it completely penetrated him. Now, he prays every morning for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. The pastors in this conference have personally read the book, and are also studying a chapter every month together. They discuss it together at the pastor’s meeting. The ministerial secretary prepares questions for each chapter, which they answer in writing.

H. H. #125

**Found Steps to Personal Revival on the General Conference website Revival and Reformation** – I was blessed by *Steps to Personal Revival*. It was a touching experience for me to read this book. My life has changed. After reading it several times in three months, I shared this message with

several churches. I also gave a soft copy of the book to all the pastors at the Conference Pastors' Meeting.... I pray that the same fire will reach every leader, every pastor and all the members of our church. [This conference has about 80,000 members.]

L. M. #140

**Victories, which I never thought possible – First testimony, June 26, 2017:** "... I read *Steps to Personal Revival* **three times**. I never thought that I would find such new knowledge about prayer – praying, based on God's promises, as you explained. **In the meantime, God has given me victories in my life that I never thought possible.** I was invited to speak at a camp meeting. Your book gave me the topic."

**Second Testimony, July 25, 2017:** "... Since I started reading your book (I read it **six times**, as recommended in the book) and since I learned to pray with promises, **my life has been transformed.** ... The Lord led me to prepare a sermon on our greatest need for the camp meeting: The Refreshing Showers of the Spirit of God. **In all the years I have dedicated to the service of God, I have never felt the power of the Holy Spirit as intensively as when He moved the 3,000 participants in the auditorium.** My wife has noticed a complete change in me. I am also surprised about myself."

F. S. Pastor and retired conference department head USA,  
#136 Text abbreviated

**President in a closed country in Asia: I pray that this book will change our whole mission field.** – "I am sorry that I didn't find out about this book before, but I thank God He showed me this book now.... Last night I sent pdf files of this book to all our workers, and asked them to read it with their family members. ... I pray that this book will change our whole mission work. We will publish it in our language so that our members will be blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives ... I pray that our Lord continues to use you and your book to bring revival in His church."

#148

# WHAT BRINGS THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO MY LIFE?

*What does everything depend on?*

What is given to believers through a life in the Holy Spirit, who live in complete surrender to Jesus and daily ask for and receive the Holy Spirit?

It essentially has to do with two areas: the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. Saving souls is influenced by the fruit of the Spirit as well as the gifts of the Spirit. We will only take a look at the fruit here, although to this day I don't have a complete picture of the entire blessing, which God gives us on this path nor can I comprehensively present it. In short: Jesus gives us gifts through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God, which brings all the others gifts with it.

- 1. New fulfilled life** – John 10:10 NKJV: “... *that they may have it [life] more abundantly,*” which will be continued in eternal life in glory. John 3:5 NKJV: “... *unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*”
- 2. Powerful life** – Ephesians 3:16 NKJV: “*That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.*” We receive power, motivation and joy for our life and willingness to obey.
- 3. Jesus becomes much more valuable to us** – John 16:14 NKJV: “*He will glorify Me...*” Total trust in Jesus brings peace and joy! It is marvelous to trust in Jesus.

4. **Jesus lives in us** – Corinthians 1:27 NKJV: “... which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Ephesians 3:16-17 NKJV: “... to be strengthened with might through His Spirit... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith ...” (More in the book *Abide in Jesus*, chapter 3.)
5. **Character renewal**, away from egoism, which tyrannizes us, towards God’s love. Ephesians 3:17 NKJV: “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.”
6. **Christ our righteousness** – Romans 8:4 NKJV: “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who ... walk according ... according to the Spirit.”
7. **Prayer** is a gift of the Holy Spirit. He gives us delight in prayer. Galatians 4:6 NKJV: “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” Jesus said in John 15:7 NKJV: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”
8. **Delight in God’s word.** The Holy Spirit creates a hunger in us for the Word of God. It is His mission to guide us into all truth. (John 16:13) “... He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26 NKJV) He is the Spirit of knowledge (Isaiah 11:2). Not only will our hunger be stilled by the Word of God, but we will also discover treasures, which will make our life happy and rich and will motivate us to speak about it.
9. **He gives us assurance of salvation** – Romans 8:16 NKJV: “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”
10. **Empowers us to witness.** As Spirit-filled workers of Jesus, we gladly tell other people about Jesus and faith. Acts 1:8 NKJV: “But you shall receive power [ability, be equipped] when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses ...” Our faith will be attractive to us and our fellow men.
11. **Deliverance from the power of sin** – We are freed in Christ from damnation; we are freed through the Holy Spirit from the power of sin (Romans 8:1-2). We will sin less and less, because we don’t want to anymore. When we fail, we confess it. With God’s help we leave everything that we have realized is wrong (1 John 5:18; 1 John 2:1). “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2 NKJV)



12. **Our thoughts will be ordered.** Galatians 5:16 NKJV: “... *Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*” (Think about the 10th commandment: you shall not covet....) 2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV: “... *bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*”
13. **Preservation, protection, ability to discriminate, steadfastness –** Matthew 24:24 NKJV: “... *to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*” 1 John 5:18 NKJV: “*We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.*”
14. **I receive advice.** The Holy Spirit the “*Spirit of counsel*” (Isaiah 11:2 NKJV). He is the only one who can give me the right answer to every question.
15. Last, but very important. **Leading people to Christ through a life of service in the Holy Spirit.** I am convinced that we would have many more church members today, if we didn’t have a lack of the Holy Spirit! And many would have a much deeper spiritual level.
16. **Liberty –** 2 Corinthians 3:17: “*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*” “In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom.” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 466.4)

### **What does everything depend on?**

John 15:5 NKJV: “... *He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*”

1 John 2:28 NKJV: “*And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*”

### **How can we abide in Jesus?**

Jesus desires us to abide in Him: “*Abide in Me, and I in you....*” (John 15:4 NKJV) This means according to *The Desire of Ages*, p. 676:

- ▶ “**A constant receiving of His Spirit.**” Hence, our daily request with a promise and the daily infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ “**A life of unreserved surrender to His service.**” Hence, our daily renewal of our complete surrender to Jesus Christ and His word and the willingness to completely follow Him.

If we take these two spiritual steps with our whole heart every day – they are the basis for new life – then we are in and remain in **new life**. And this new life – Jesus is very clear here – is the prerequisite for admission into God’s kingdom (John 3:1-8). These two “vital elements” result in us being born again and remaining in new life, if we continually stay closely connected to Christ (abide in Him) and continually follow His call to ask for the Holy Spirit.

Jesus makes them to a prerequisite with no alternative for God’s kingdom in John 3:3,5 – born of water (symbol for surrendering our life to Jesus) and Spirit. The spiritual life, which we receive when we are born again, has to be preserved and maintained with the help of these “vital elements”.

These basic elements are also the prerequisite for God being able to give us His whole love here and now. God doesn’t wish to take anything from us when we surrender ourselves to Him, but rather He wants to bless us with His rich abundance. God has a fulfilled and fruitful Christian life available for each of us. Do you want to be a spiritual Christian, who has accepted Jesus Christ as his Redeemer and Lord and lives in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you want to be “wide-awake”?

### **Is surrendering our lives an expectation of Jesus, which is going too far?**

This is an expectation based on love. The Bible compares our relationship with Jesus to marriage. Didn’t you both completely give yourself to your bride/groom when you married? Did you see this as an unreasonable demand or was it only natural? Would you have gladly agreed if he or she had reserved one day of the week for someone else? You would have certainly not gotten married. Love wholly devotes itself and expects the same from its partner. Jesus totally gave Himself for us. He expects the same from us, so that He can make us happy now and for eternity.

### **What about the believers, who have already died?**

I am thankful that the Bible tells us that God overlooks times of ignorance (Acts 17:30). Whoever has sincerely lived out his faulty beliefs, is saved. But since so many live without the Holy Spirit or with a lack of the Holy Spirit, many of our children and youth have left the church. In any case, they have suffered a great loss in their lives, because the Holy Spirit is the most

valuable gift which God has given us and He brings all the other blessings with Him.

## What is personal revival?

**Ellen G. White** said: “Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death.” (*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 128.1)

**Mark Finley**: “Revival takes place when we implement the biblical elements of revival.”<sup>22</sup>

**Dennis Smith**: “The infilling of the Holy Spirit gives Laodicean Christians the necessary strength for spiritual revival and also the power to witness.”<sup>23</sup>

Therefore, revival means a return from spiritual death or Laodicean-Christianity (carnal Christianity) to new life. Revival doesn't have anything to do with any eccentric behavior, rather it is entering new life – in a true spiritual life. We grow in this new life through serving (see footnote<sup>24</sup>). One grows quickly, the other more slowly. Someone, who is just beginning to understand the work of the Holy Spirit, shouldn't become discouraged because he produces less fruit than a more mature Christian, who has been acquainted with this truth for a long time. (Recommendation: read or reread *Steps to Personal Revival*)

## Revival in Three Steps

### Step 1: New life through being born again

Jesus makes it clear in John 3:1-8 that without this new life we cannot enter God's kingdom.

It is necessary to be born again and to remain in this new life. Jesus said: “*Abide in Me and I in you.*” (John 15:4 NKJV) When this new life doesn't exist, then we are spiritually dead. Having new life is the foundation of a Christian life and also the basis for further growth.

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<sup>22</sup> Mark Finley, *Revive us again*, p. 25

<sup>23</sup> Dennis Smith, *40 Days – Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming*, Vienna 2012, p. 103

<sup>24</sup> Helmut Haubeil, *Spirit-Filled Coworkers of Jesus*, chapter 2: God's ingenious way. Available online [www.schritte-zur-persönlichen-erweckung.info](http://www.schritte-zur-persönlichen-erweckung.info) or as a book [www.remnantpublications.com](http://www.remnantpublications.com)

## **Step 2: Growing in the new life through service and witness**

Whoever lives in the new life, has the desire to serve. For him it is a matter of serving God and thereby growing and maturing spiritually. Whoever doesn't have the desire to serve, has to ask themselves if they are even filled with the Holy Spirit. We can only experience the fullness through the reflex blessing of our service for God. Ellen G. White said: "Divine wisdom has appointed, in the plan of salvation, the law of action and reaction, making the work of beneficence, in all its branches, twice blessed. He that gives to the needy blesses others, and is blessed himself in a still greater degree." (*Testimony Treasures*, vol. 1, p. 360.4) Service and witness open our hearts. Whoever doesn't want to serve, will lose what he had. Here it is not only a matter of spiritual service, but rather "*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*" (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV) Jesus: "... *inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*" (Matthew 25:40.45 NKJV) (Further details in the book *Spirit-Filled Coworkers of Jesus*, chap. 2: God's Ingenious Way)

## **Step 3: Maturing to receive the latter rain**

Whoever matures in the early rain will be prepared for the latter rain (Zechariah 10:1). Only those who have matured in the early rain can receive the latter rain, which will help them survive the most difficult phase of the end time and also be a witness for Jesus.

I think that it is important for us to realize that revival is not a one-time event, but rather it is a continually progressive development, because new life has to do with our relationship to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Praise and thanks to God that He has shown us the way. We are glad that we can traverse the path of revival. May God give each of you His rich grace and the fullness of His blessings. For those, who already live in the Holy Spirit, may He give you growth to fullness and for those, who have not gone down this path or haven't gone far enough, may He give you new life.

What risk do we run when we don't continually ask for the Holy Spirit? "The enemy is a master worker, and if God's people are not constantly led by the Spirit of God, they will be snared and taken." (*Selected Messages*, book 2, p. 352.2)

## TESTIMONIES

**Pastor in England** – I virtually read the book (*Steps to Personal Revival*) in one sitting and was taken on a spiritual roller coaster of despair and delight. It convicted and challenged me. I ordered immediately 150 copies for my church... I look forward to my 3rd, 4th and 5th readings and to put the church on a spiritual war footing with the 40-day prayer and fast.

D. M.

Two weeks later: I am preparing the church to receive the book at next week's business meeting which I am calling – Revival Evangelism Business Meeting. I am praying for a Spirit-filled response to what indeed is (the Holy Spirit) an alien subject for church people! It is frightening but exciting, too! I am anticipating a revolution and to share great testimonies.

D. M. #75

**Pastor of two churches in California, USA** – I came into contact with *Steps to Personal Revival* through the podcast of Pastor Dwight Nelson. It deeply impressed me. I admit that I never had much interest in “Holy Spirit books”. I definitely believe that for some reason God has chosen the current times to reach more people with the Holy Spirit. I am so glad.

Straight away in the first chapter we are shown the simple way to a very powerful truth, which forces our spirit to stop and think afresh. The process of reading the book multiple times is very effective. With every person I talk, discuss and preach to about the book, the topic of the Holy Spirit becomes more attractive. It is as if we have heard about it for the first time.

I can see it in myself. I couldn't tear myself away from the first chapter until I had held at least three sermons on it. I couldn't stop reading the book. The results were perceptible in my churches. My district has grown by 18% in the last year. This is the work of God and the Holy Spirit's on our members. We are looking forward to even more this year. Excerpt from a lengthy email.

D. R.

# WILL WE FOLLOW JESUS NOW?

*Will we use the unrecognized wealth now?*

*Will we close the gap?*

*What reasons could there be for failure?*

Jesus Christ emphasized ten times in His prayer lesson that we should continually ask every day for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; Luke 11:9-13).

Back in her day, **Ellen G. White** called pastors' attention to the fact that it was neither practiced nor taught. She said: "The power the Holy Spirit awaits our demand and reception." (*Testimonies to Pastors and Gospel Workers*, p. 174) What is it like today? Is it being taught and preached with this clarity? Is it being taught in our sermons, Bible and baptismal classes and religion classes?

I thank God that in the meanwhile He has let me recognize this. 170 written testimonies about "new life in the Holy Spirit" can be read at [www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info) under "testimonies". In addition, there have been hundreds of personal conversations in response to the *40-Day books* by Dennis Smith and *Steps to Personal Revival* by Helmut Haubeil. Experience has already shown that paying heed to Jesus' command – asking daily – leads to a breakthrough. In the process, it is very helpful to pray with promises (Luke 11:13; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

## The Main Obstacle: Pride and Prejudice

Pride and prejudice are enormous blockades for learning biblical insights. The fate of Dr. Semmelweis is a crass example in the area of health.

Around 1840 Vienna was known as a strong-hold of medicine. In the Vienna general hospital, one of the most well-known university clinics of the time, almost one in six women died on the maternity ward. When the women died, they were taken to the dissecting room. It was the first obligation of the doctors and students to examine the dead women each morning

Afterwards, the doctors continued – without washing their hands thoroughly – to examine the women on the maternity ward.

Around 1840 the young Dr. Semmelweis was given the supervision of one of these maternity wards. He discovered that those women got sick and died, who had been previously examined by the professors and doctors. He suspected this was the reason for the high death rate. Hence, he ordered that every doctor and student that had taken part in an autopsy should thoroughly wash their hands before they examined any patients on the maternity ward.

In April 1847, before the regulation became effective, 57 women died on this ward. In June only one of 42 women died. In July only one in 84. The statistics clearly proved that the deadly infectious diseases from the corpses had been transmitted to the living patients.

After a certain incident, Dr. Semmelweis ordered that they were to also carefully wash their hands after examining each patient. Immediately, protests arose against this “senseless handwashing”.

But the death rate dropped. The hygienic measures had brought about a 14-fold improvement.

And the result: His superiors ridiculed and criticized him to such an extent that his contract wasn't renewed. His successor had the sinks taken out again. The death rate soon went back to the old alarming numbers.<sup>25</sup> We can see: a person can be highly intelligent and at the same time very foolish.

We don't want to forget: *“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, [The Holy Spirit is] the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”* (Isaiah 11:2 NKJV); He is not the Spirit of fear, but rather *“of power and of love and of a*

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<sup>25</sup> Dr. S. J. McMillan, *None of these diseases – arguments from a doctor based on the Bible* (Aussaat-Verlag), p. 11

*sound mind.*” (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV) The Holy Spirit also sends us to bring the gospel to the lost, the brokenhearted, the captives, those who are bound so that they can be free (Isaiah 61:1; repeated from Jesus Luke 4:18.19).

Prejudice can be very strong. We should bear in mind that highly educated people have had such prejudices – professors and doctors. Unfortunately, the “problem of prejudice” is still relevant today – not only in the area of health, but also towards the Bible. No one is immune to this. That is why I pray every day: Lord, take all my thoughts *“into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV). Make me willing today to decide, talk and act as You would want (Hebrews 13:21). Make me open to Your Spirit and for my fellowmen. Protect me from self-opinionatedness, prejudice and pride.

Do we want to examine the path shown here – shown by God’s word and the spirit of prophecy? And after examination do we want to take this path?

Acts 17:11 NKJV says:

*“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”*

May the Lord prepare us to be willing for everything He wants. May a great revival ensue from this! And may a severe gap thus be closed. And may the unrecognized wealth also be used for ourselves and for the salvation of others!

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 15:57.58 NKJV)



# APPENDIX

Testimony of **Dwight Nelson**. Head pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, USA:

## **How my life changed because of the book *Steps to Personal Revival*.**

Last August (2017) a young man at the British Columbia camp meeting where I was preaching, gave me a book. I had never seen the book before nor had I ever heard of the author - but the man told me there were over 600,000 copies of the book circulating the world in 29 languages. (March 2021: 50 languages, 1.2 million copies and an unknown number of digital copies distributed.)

Little did I know this short book would end up dramatically changing my life – the way I pray, the way I preach, the way I relate to others – it changed my ministry.

In all my years of schooling, preaching and teaching, nobody ever told me or taught me that the Bible and Ellen White teach us to DAILY petition God for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. How could I have gone this far through pastoring and preaching and never learned so compelling a truth!

But that is what Helmut Haubeil's book *Steps to Personal Revival* has taught me. By the time I returned home from that camp meeting I had read the book- in fact I have now read it four times. And my life is changed- you can ask the woman I live with and the people I pastor.

For years I have preached on receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit – series of sermons on this vital theme. But now I have discovered a way to meet with Jesus every morning and do just as He did every morning with the Father – ask for a fresh baptism of His Spirit.

Humbly I testify that God has raised the bar on my prayer life. I used to spend much time in the Word and a comparatively short time in actual prayer. Now my practice is reversed – I spend much time on my knees in my early morning prayer closet in communion with God and then turn to His Word for His communication with me.

My preaching has gained a new freedom and intensity. My leadership with my team and my people has been raised to another level. Suddenly coincidences (what one writer calls synchronicity) are multiplying – it's as

if someone is orchestrating my days and nights, my “chance” meetings and emails and conversations. It’s as if the Holy Spirit is personally directing my waking hours (even my sleeping ones). In fact, I’ve come to know Him as a very personal and truly dear Friend.

Why am I telling you this? I have nothing to gain from this testimony – but I am deeply convicted that you do. Jesus is coming soon. We still have a world, an entire generation, to reach with the everlasting gospel. We simply cannot accomplish that mission on our own. Our only hope is to learn what Jesus knew, to practice what Paul and the first disciples lived. We must have the **DAILY** baptism of the Holy Spirit upon our lives and ministry. And the only way we will have it is if we humbly daily ask for it. I don’t know who you are, but I am praying for you as I write this. The promised Gift is yours and mine for the asking. After all didn’t Jesus promise us: *“If you then who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who [Greek – daily continually] ask Him”* (Luke 11:13)?

Won’t you join me in that daily asking?

(Prayer letter from the General Conference April 22, 2018)

## TESTIMONY

**I wasted time taking for granted the most important thing – from being filled by the Holy Spirit.** I am reading *Steps to Personal Revival* in Spanish for the third time. I have realized how much time I have wasted as a church member and SDA pastor, because I have taken for granted the most important thing in my relationship with Jesus. The book came to me at a very special time in my life and ministry. All I can say is that I am enjoying the blessing through the Holy Spirit in my life in such a different manner and experience. The thesis of this book has become a reality in my life. Thank you!

E. L. from USA #92

# RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

## **10 DAYS OF PRAYER “SEEKING REVIVAL” 2021**

The 10 Days of Prayer 2021 was translated into 37 different languages and was studied in many countries. In a sense, it is an abbreviated version of the three books in the small series: *Steps to Personal Revival (Abide in Jesus, Spirit-Filled Coworkers of Jesus)*

The readings have since been slightly changed by Helmut Haubeil in German and English. In addition, study questions have been added as well as suggestions for specific prayer and guidelines for group leaders.

You can find them in German at [www.schritte-zur-persoenlichen-erweckung.info](http://www.schritte-zur-persoenlichen-erweckung.info) and in English at [www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info). The unedited version can be read or downloaded in 37 languages at [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org) – 2021.

Here are some ideas of how the 10 Days of Prayer material can be used:

## **Digital Prayer Groups over Zoom**

The 10 days of prayer was and is held in prayer groups. These groups often use the following program:

- ▶ **5 min. before starting have a musical piece** or song to create a good atmosphere and help to start on time.
- ▶ **Start: welcome, prayer and announce message topic**
- ▶ **About one third of the time for the MESSAGE.** The 10 Days of Prayer can be used here. If the available time is short, then it can be read and share a few main thoughts. If more time is available, then there could be a discussion afterwards. The message helps a lot to be able to pray specifically and for revival.
- ▶ **About one third of the time for PRAYER.** With larger prayer meeting groups, it is better to divide into small groups for prayer, so that there are sufficient opportunities for prayer. For example: a prayer meeting with 60 people. If they are divided into 10 groups of 6 people each for 20 minutes of prayer, then a total of 200 minutes of prayer are available. This is much more than if 60 people prayed together as a group.

In order for this group to have the same amount of time for prayer, they would have to pray for three hours. Naturally, that doesn't work. There are prayer requests, which everyone can pray for, then there are matters, which are only prayed for within a group.

- ▶ **About one third of the time for TESTIMONIES.** There is great power in testimonies. Jesus called us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). Testimonies and good news strengthen our faith.
- ▶ **Close the session with prayers of thanks.**

### **Preparation for preaching**

It is important to spiritually prepare for preaching (a Bible study series or an evangelistic series). The readings can also be used for this. This preparation can take place in a group or a church with or without guests. The readings can also be of valuable use before someone receives regular Bible studies. If we can lead people to Jesus at the beginning of the contact, then it is much easier for them to accept the message of the Bible studies.<sup>26</sup>

### **Preparation for Bible studies**

I always conduct a discipleship class before I start Bible studies, so that the dear participants are led to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The 10 Days of Prayer can also be used for this.

### **For parents and teachers, so they can lead children to Jesus.**

A mother wrote from the USA that her two girls, ages 6 and 8, invite Jesus and the Holy Spirit into their hearts every morning. This is extremely valuable. Ellen G. White said something truly amazing: "Teach your children that it is their privilege to receive every day the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let Christ find you His helping hand to carry out His purposes. By prayer you may gain an experience that will make your ministry for your children a perfect success." (*Child Guidance*, p. 69.4)



### **No. 1: Steps to Personal Revival**

Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

How do you experience this?

(available in 50 languages on the website)

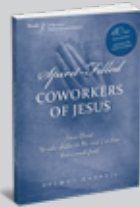


### **No. 2: Abide in Jesus**

How do you do that?

Leading a life of unreserved surrender to Jesus Christ.

(available in 25 languages on the website)



### **No. 3: Spirit-filled Coworkers of Jesus**

Wie wird man das?

How do you do that? Unreserved surrender to His service with His superb results.

(available in 10 languages at the end of 2021)



### **Starter-Set**

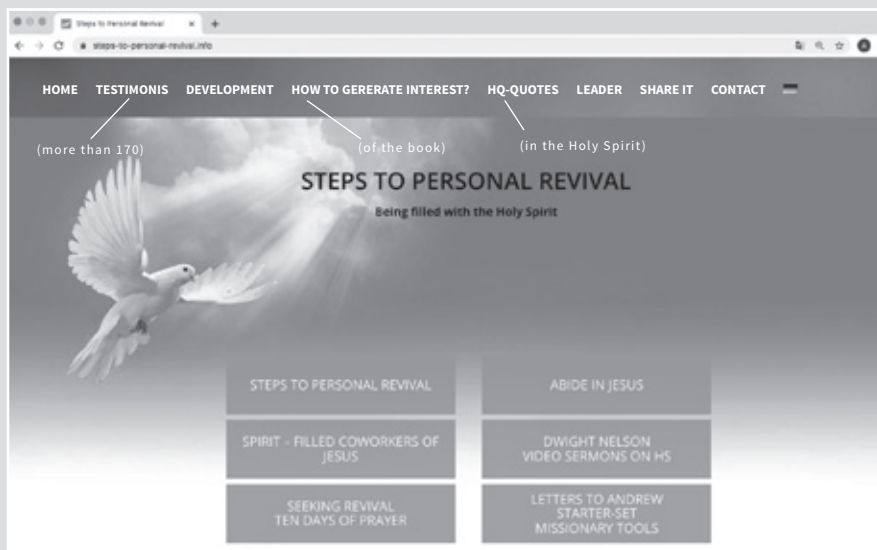
This includes 8 illustrated tracts (Letters to Andrew) for building a spiritual relationship and leading people to Jesus. These are tried and tested aids which facilitate faith sharing for helpers and participants.

Free downloads under: [www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info)

Books are available at: see order addresses at p. 2 of all books

# www.steps-to-personal-revival.info

Being filled with the Holy Spirit – How do you experience this?  
This website has been visited from 143 countries.



**All the books can be read, printed or shared for free in together more than 80 languages.**

Steps to Personal Revival, Abide in Jesus, Spirit-filled Coworkers of Jesus and starter set, From Lack to Abundance: How to have more of the Holy Spirit, Experience God – Letters to Andrew

**Personal testimony from Dwight Nelson**, head pastor at the Andrews University church: How my life has been changed by *Steps to Personal Revival*.

Three Videosermons by Dwight Nelson: How to be Baptized with the Holy Spirit?

**Video seminar** with Helmut Haubeil “Steps to Personal Revival” – 7 parts

**Audio book** “Steps to Personal Revival” – 7 parts, Speaker: Mike Fenton

**Video seminar and audio** with Helmut Haubeil “Abide in Jesus” – 5 parts

**A proven mission tool (tracts) for building spiritual relationships:**

- All 17 Experience God – Letters to Andrew
- Starter-Set with 8 selected Letters to Andrew for building spiritual relationships.



# EXPERIENCE GOD

## Letters to Andrew

*Starter-Set*

*A Relationship  
with Christ*  
Letters to Andrew  
Nr. 1-5, 8,  
13, 14, Z1



### **STARTERSET – LETTERS TO ANDREW TO LEAD PEOPLE TO JESUS**

These letters to Andrew are the bridge to practical experience. These are tried and tested tools to lead people to Jesus. There are 12 advantages to use such a booklet, which are mentioned at chapter 7 in *Spirit-Filled Coworkers of Jesus*. They significantly facilitate important conversations about faith, both for the helper and the participant.

This envelope contains one copy of each of the required letters. The illustrated design and the appealing content will please you. You will be happy to pass them on. You need a set for every person you want to lead to Jesus. You will experience great joy when you have been able to lead someone to Jesus.

The envelope is intended for notes: when did I give which number?

The usual order for passing distribution is:

- 4 The bet of our life: Does God exist or not?
- 1 Christian Faith put to the test
- 8 Prophecies about Jesus Christ – Probability of Fulfilment 1:10<sup>17</sup>
- 2 Unique and beyond comparison: Jesus of Nazareth
- 3 What is the main focus of the Bible?
- 13 Seize Life through a personal relationship with God
- Z1 In addition: The Way to Eternal Life
- 14 Life in God's Strength – How?
- 5 Victory over Tobacco and Alcohol

**[www.steps-to-personal-revival.info](http://www.steps-to-personal-revival.info)**: Letters to Andrew

The letters to Andrew can also be downloaded for free or be sent to someone from this website.

*„But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.“  
(1 Cor 15:57)*

# FROM LACK TO ABUNDANCE:

*How to have more of the Holy Spirit*

Jesus has given us a great personal gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you already discovered this wealth? Or are you leading a hand-to-mouth existence? Are we living with a severe deficiency? Do we want to close this critical gap with God's help?

Jesus desires Spirit-filled followers. Do we want to respond to His loving and urgent call to continually and daily ask afresh for the Holy Spirit? Whoever prays with promises can have the daily assurance that they have received Him.

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been neglected by Christian theology. Is this why some Bible verses have been unintentionally watered-down and inaccurately translated? Could this problem even be discerned by Bible readers?

From the very beginning, the SDA church has valued the "gift of prophecy". "But it wasn't until 1980, more than a hundred years later, that the Holy Spirit was given His rightful place in the Fundamental Beliefs – article 5." (Johannes Mager)

Did these circumstances lead to a half-true and half-false view of being filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we find the correct biblical view and the new life brought by the Holy Spirit? What wonderful blessings does the Holy Spirit bring in our life and our ministry?

What is a revival and what does it achieve? Is there a development in this area?

Will we follow Jesus? Will we close the gap? What could lead to failure?

Do we want to lead a joyful, attractive, fruitful life by the power of God? A meaningful, fulfilled life, which achieves great things?