

HOLY SPIRIT RENEWAL



With Bishop Ronald K. Powell



DO I NEED HOLY SPIRIT RENEWAL?

- *In other words, is this even an issue for me?*
- *Do I already have it together in this area, or do I need some help?*
- *I've put together four questions that should help us each to make that decision.*



1) Am I eager to serve God?

- *Am I doing ministry in the church and in my life because it is something I feel obligated to do, or because it is something I desire to do for God?*
- But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. — Romans 7:6 (ESV)
- *In this passage Paul is making the distinction between those that do things for God because it is legally required of them, and those that do them because the Spirit of God is empowering them to serve.*



Where are you at on this?

If serving God is drudgery for you, you are in need of Holy Spirit renewal.



2) Am I enjoying time with God?

- *Do you hesitate to approach God in prayer?*
- *Has quiet time become boring time?*
- *Do you look forward to the times when you can spend time in God's Word?*

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. – Romans 14:17-18 (ESV)

*• Our experience with God is meant to be enjoyable, fulfilling, and joyous. **If you're not experiencing that right now, you're in need of Holy Spirit renewal.***



3) Am I growing in relationship with God?

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment. –

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT)

- *This word “crave” means that this is something I long for – and what I am to long for is the spiritual milk, or the Word of God.*
- *Do you find yourself in a state of craving that time that you have with God in His Word and growing closer and closer to Him?*
- *If not, you’re in need of Holy Spirit Renewal.*



4) Am I a Godly example for others?

- *Let's put this another way – would you be thrilled to know that every person in this church was living life exactly the way that you do?*
- *If each and every one of us had the same level of commitment to God, and to His church that you display in your life, would we all be better or worse off?*



Paul Said: Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. –
1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

•If we are experiencing a life empowered and enriched by the Holy Spirit, we should be able to say “Yes, others should follow me as I am following Christ.”

•If we can't say that, then we are in need of Holy Spirit renewal.



Now, identifying our need for renewal is not difficult –

If you answered “No,” to even one of these questions, you are in need of the Holy Spirit renewing your life.

The next step is more difficult, but very much a doable thing. We need to ask and answer our second question if any of this is going to do us any good.



HOW CAN I BE RENEWED?

- *I would be shocked if less than 80% of us have not come to the conclusion that we need renewal – in fact, the number might be higher than that.*
- *The fact is that each and every one of us needs renewal on a regular basis.*
- ***This is nothing to be ashamed of** – rather, it is good to just admit it, get it out of the way, and then move on to becoming the person God wants us to be.*



Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. – Colossians 3:10 (NLT)

“Renewing the Church is like remodeling your house: it takes longer than you hoped, costs more than you planned, and makes a bigger mess than you ever thought possible.” – Paul Smith

What Paul Smith said of the church applies just as much to us as individuals.

If you're listening to this hoping for a quick fix, easy solution, you're not going to get it.



Renew my commitment

I can remember as a kid in church that periodically someone would come forward at the end of the service and recommit/rededicate their lives to Jesus Christ.

These were people that were already saved, yet they had not been walking with the Lord as they should, and coming under conviction of that, they decided to make a public re-commitment of their hearts before the entire church.



Renew my commitment

I really miss seeing that, and I'm not sure why people don't do it much anymore. A powerful thing happens to us when we renew our commitment to Christ – it is both a pledge to God and a promise to ourselves, that we are going to follow Jesus as Lord – while it can be done privately, when it is done before the church it encourages the church to pray and to assist in the renewal process.



Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice...Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. – Psalm 51:8, 10 (NLT)



Closing & Prayer

- *If I am not committed to the process I cannot expect God to bring renewal.*
- *It is not a matter of just praying to God and Him zapping us with a new heart –*
- *It is a matter of committing myself to God and His will for my life and obeying His Word.*
- *To be renewed by the Spirit, I have to recommit myself to Jesus Christ.*



Let's Pray.