

Chapter 26. The Daily Renewal – It's Power

"Our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." –

2 Corinthians 4:16

"According to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." – Titus 3:5

The natural life is renewed every day. As the sun rises again with its light and warmth, the flowers open, the birds sing, and everywhere life is stirred and strengthened. As we rise from the rest of sleep and are nourished by eating our food, we gather new strength for the duties of the day. The inner chamber is the confession that *we need our inward soul and spirit to also be renewed daily*. It is only by fresh nourishment from God's Word, and fresh interaction with God Himself in prayer, that the vigour of the spiritual life can be maintained and grow. Though our outward man perish, though the burden of sickness or suffering, or the strain of work and weariness may exhaust or wear us out, the inward man can be renewed day by day.

A quiet time and place, with the Word and prayer, are the means of this inner renewal. But only when they are animated by the divine power of the Holy Spirit working through them, the mightiest power of God working in us. Our study of the inner chamber and the inner life would be defective if we did not give the daily renewal of the inner man its rightful place. This is the function of the Holy Spirit. In the text from Titus, we learn that we have been *"saved by the washing of regeneration **and renewing of the Holy Spirit.**"* The two expressions are not meant to be a repetition. The regeneration is one great act, the beginning of the Christian life. The renewing of the Holy Spirit is a continuous work and never ends. In **Romans 12:2** we read of the progressive transformation of the Christian life, *"**the renewing of the mind**"*. In **Ephesians 4:22-23**, we are instructed to *"put off the old man"*, an act done once and for all. The word, *"be renewed in the spirit of your mind,"* is in the present tense and points to a progressive work. In **Colossians 3:10** we read: *"You have put on **the new man who is renewed** [not, has been] according to the image of Him who created him."* We need to look at the Holy Spirit, on Whom we can count, for the daily renewal of the inner man in the inner chamber.

In our secret devotions, everything depends on our maintaining the true relation to the third Person of the Trinity, through Whom alone the Father and the Son can do their work of salvation, and through Whom alone the Christian can do his work. That relation may be expressed in the two very simple words: **faith** and **surrender**.

Faith. Scripture says: *"God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" (Galatians 4:6).* Every child of God, even the feeblest one, who offer up a prayer in his morning devotion that is pleasing to the Father, must remember that he has received the Holy Spirit as the spirit of prayer. His help is indispensable to enable us to pray effectively. The same is true of the Word of God. Truth, in its divine meaning and power, can only be revealed to us, and do its work in our heart, by the Holy Spirit. If you want the daily renewal of the inner man to be a reality in your morning hour, then take time to meditate, to worship, and to believe with your whole heart that the Holy Spirit has been given to you, that He is in you, and that through Him God will work the blessing which He gives through prayer and the Word.

Surrender. Do not forget that the Holy Spirit must have complete control. *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (Romans 8:14).* *"Those who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." (Romans 8:1).* It is the ungrieved presence of the Spirit that gives the Word its light and power and keeps us in that blessed life of childlike confidence and childlike obedience which is well-pleasing to God. Let us praise God for this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit in His renewing power, and let us enter the inner chamber, as the place where the inner man is renewed day by day, with new hope and joy. In this way our inner life will be always fresh, be renewed from strength to strength, bearing much fruit, and the Father will be glorified.

If this is true, then we need to know the Holy Spirit. As the Third Person, it is His office and His work to bring the life of God to us. He hides Himself in the depth of our being, makes Himself one with us, so that He can reveal the Father and the Son in us. For Him to be the mighty Power of God working in us, He has to take control of our entire being. He asks only one thing: simple obedience to His leading. The truly yielded soul will find the secret of growth and strength and joy, in the daily renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: "Holy Spirit, You dwell in me. I believe that You were given to me to help me bear spiritual fruit that glorifies the Father and the Son. In obedience, I surrender myself again to You. Amen."