

A BIBLICAL LOOK AT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Cooper Abrams

Many Christian groups today are teaching that after a believer has been saved they then have a later experience in which they receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Don Basham, a leading Charismatic writer, says this ". . .experience is a second encounter with God (the first is conversion) in which the Christian begins to receive the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit into his life."

The Charismatics and Pentecostals teach that this experience usually comes when one prays for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is a very emotional experience in which the person "feels" the presence of the Holy Spirit. Basham describes the experience as follows. "His (the Holy Spirit) presence may come as a warmth enveloping you, or as a silent powerful Presence enfolding you. You may experience a tingling sensation or a gentle vibration as if touched by an electric current. But even if you feel nothing, rest quietly in the confidence that the Holy Spirit is now coming upon you in power and is about to furnish you with a new language of prayer and praise to God."

After having the experience they then are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Basham states, "The average Christian, although truly professing Christ, operates largely on his own power, making his own decisions, living by his own strength, and controlling his own life. But through the baptism of the Holy Spirit the Christian steps out of this natural realm into a realm where he can begin to experience the supernatural gifts and powers of God's Holy Spirit."

It often comes when other Charismatics, who have had the experience, lay hands on the person seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Often with the laying on of hands there is a great deal of coaching in which the person is told to make verbal sounds which helps the person begin to speak in tongues. They teach that when one receives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, they will speak in tongues and this is evidence that they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In summary, it is taught that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, does not necessarily happen when a person is saved. It is what they call a "second blessing" in which a believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Further receiving that Baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied with speaking in tongues.

In this article it will be shown that the teachings of the Charismatic and Pentecostal Movement are false and not taught by the Word of God. The Bible teaches that the two ministries, Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit, are different and distinct ministries of the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs, according to the Bible, at the time of salvation. The term Baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to the indwelling of the believer by the Holy Spirit. The Filling of the Holy Spirit, is different from the Baptism of the Spirit. It may occur simultaneously when one is saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Filling of the Spirit can happen often in the believer's life. The Bible teaches there is only one Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but there can be many Fillings of the Spirit.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is mentioned only seven times in the New Testament. To understand the Baptism of the Holy Spirit one must understand the word Baptism. Baptism in the Bible is a public act of a believer identifying themselves with Christ. The

first mention of Baptism in the Bible is of John the Baptist's baptism. John's Baptism was a sign of one publicly acknowledging their need of repentance for sin. John's message was, "repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." (Matt.3:2,11) The Jews who were looking for the coming Messiah, were told that there was one coming greater than John and he was preparing the way (verse 3). The Jews, who were believers, looking for the coming of their Messiah, believed John's message that the Kingdom was at hand. They submitted to baptism as a public demonstration of their repentance in preparation of the coming Messiah.

John's baptism was not the same baptism as the baptism practiced later in the church. Some Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism were rebuked by John the Baptist. He rebuked them because they came without truly repenting. He refused to baptize them and told them first to "bring forth fruits meet for repentance." (Matt. 3:7-9) However, John's baptism was a public declaration of one's belief in God. Those coming did so in faith in looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. It must be understood that John's baptism did not impart any power or supernatural gift. Only those who were believers and showed evidence of their repentance and faith in the Messiah were baptized. It was a public demonstration of their faith.

Water Baptism in the church, identifies one publicly as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4)

Further it shows one is identifying with others who are saved, by joining the local church. Acts 2:38, says, "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" He had just preached unto them Christ, proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah. This was the invitation. Peter urged them to repent of their sins. He continues by telling them to also be baptized because they repented. He says if they receive Christ they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Verse 41 it records that they who received Christ were baptized the same day. Verse 47, adds that those who received Christ were "added to the church."

The record is that those who were saved, repented of their sins, received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, were baptized by being immersed in water and became members of the local church. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, identifies one as a member of the Body of Christ, having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit and received the New Nature. Publicly the believer's changed life identifies him as Christian. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Israel is never mentioned in Scripture as the "Body of Christ." Believers in the Old Testament were not permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit as are believers in the Church Age, or New Testament era.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES TO THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Matthew 3:11. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will

baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John the Baptist, was promising that when the Messiah came He would Baptize them with the Holy Spirit. It was a promise of the indwelling of the Spirit of God. This was confirmed by Peter in Acts 11:16.

2. Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16. These are parallel references to Matthew 3:11.

3. John 1:33-34. "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

This was John's confirmation, the One who was the Messiah, and who would Baptize with the Holy Spirit was Jesus. John the Baptist's evidence was that he saw the Spirit of God descend on Jesus, and then God told him this was the Messiah.

4. Acts 1:5. "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Jesus promised his disciples they would receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is what happened on the Day of Pentecost. The disciples of Christ received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

5. Acts 11:16. "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"

Acts 10, records that there was a Roman centurion named Cornelius who was a devout man who feared God. He was a Jewish proselyte to Judaism. God sent an angel to Cornelius and instructed him to send for Peter who was in Joppa. The angel told him that Peter would tell him what he should do? Evidently Cornelius was praying about questions he had about God. Peter at the same time receives a vision from God that prepared him for Cornelius's visit. Peter a devout Jew would not normally even enter a Gentile house. God told Peter in the vision to eat animals that the Mosaic law declared to be unclean. When Peter refused, God told him not to call common what God declared to be clean. (Acts 10:14) As the vision ended the men Cornelius had sent to fetch Peter stood knocking on his door. They related how the angel had appeared to their master Cornelius and beckoned him to go with him. Peter went and preached Christ to Cornelius. (Acts 10:23-43) In Verses 44 it says they received the Holy Spirit and were afterwards received water baptism. What happened to Cornelius and those in his home who believed was identical to what happened on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem to the Jewish disciples.

Peter says that the receiving of the Holy Spirit was what John the Baptist had prophesied. (Acts 11:15-16) Acts 11:18, records that this was a sign to the Jews in Jerusalem that, "God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

6. Acts 19:1-7, records that Paul came to Ephesus and encountered twelve disciples of John the Baptist. He ask them had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They replied they had no knowledge of any thing about the Holy Spirit. Paul told them of Christ and they also received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This was the third and finally time the Bible records anyone receiving the Holy Spirit in the manner as it was receive at Pentecost. In is important to note that verse 8, says that Paul then went to the Jewish synagogue and preached Christ there for three months. Many of the Jews in the

synagogue rejected the Gospel message of Jesus being the Messiah. Paul however, continued to preach in the school of Tyrannus for two years so that all in Asia heard the Gospel (Acts 19:9-10).

This account says that these believers received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. These believers left the synagogue and began meeting together. It states that because of these events including miracles preformed by the Apostle Paul, that many believed and the Word of God grew mightily and prevailed (Acts 11:20).

It should be understood that in each of the three accounts of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit coming upon believers in the Book of Acts the local church was in view. In each case those who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit were believers. It must be noted that although they feared God as did all Old Testament saints, they did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Understanding that the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit was a new phenomenon given only to the bride of Christ, the church, sheds great light on these events.

Old Testament believers were not indwelled by the Holy Spirit on a permanent basis. In the period of the Old Testament only one man was said to have been indwelled by the Holy Spirit all of his life. That man was David. "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward." (1 Samuel 16:13) The Old Testament records that the Spirit of God came upon Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Samuel, King Saul, Amasai, Azariah, and Zecharah. (See Num. 24:2, Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 14:19, I Sam. 10:10, 11:6, 18:10, I Chron. 12:18, II Chron. 15:1, 24:20) In each case it was not a permanent indwelling but a temporary indwelling for a particular service for God.

In Acts 2:16-18, Peter says that new permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit was prophesied by the Prophet Joel. (Joel 2:28) Pentecost was the beginning and birth of the church, bride of Christ. In Acts 1:4, Jesus told His disciple to wait for the "promise of the Father." Jesus says in Verse 5, that the promise is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They then waited for fifty days until the Day of Pentecost and then they the charter members of the church all received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Until the Day of Pentecost Jesus's disciples were not indwelled by the Holy Spirit. After they received the Holy Spirit then they were told, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

7. Galatians 3:26-27. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Paul says that all who have been baptized by the Holy Spirit have put on Christ. This is a key verse. Paul is saying that those who by faith have trusted the Lord Jesus have been "clothed", KJV "put on" Christ. The believer is clothed with Christ. This reference is not to water baptism, but to Spirit Baptism in which one is indwelled by Spirit, and given an eternal living union with Christ (I Cor. 12:13). Galatians 4:6, tells us the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Paul is saying that every son of God has the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts.

It is important to understand that nowhere in Scripture is the believer told to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. I Cor 12:13, says "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body". One who is saved, at salvation, is regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and indwelled and put into the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:4-5, "There is one body, and one

Spirit, even as ye are called in on hope of your calling, One Lord, one faith, one baptism." There is only one Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and it is automatically received by all who by faith trust in the Lord Jesus and are saved. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, is the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is given to all Christians. Ephesians 1:13, states clearly that a person after hearing the Gospel and he believed he was saved and was "sealed" with the Holy Spirit which had been promised. Verse 18, that these who had been saved, had their understanding enlightened, that they "know what is the hope of his calling". Verse 19, says that the believer has great power.

WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT SALVATION AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In John 3:3, Jesus told the Pharisee Nicodemus, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) In Verse 5, Jesus further explained that, ". . . unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." There can be no mistake that Jesus was saying a person in order to be saved must be born again of the Holy Spirit. These verse do not say that being born of the Spirit and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit are the same. However, in verse 6, Jesus said that, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." He is saying what the Holy Spirit produces is Spirit.

John explained that the Jesus spoke of the coming indwelling of the Holy Spirit in John 7:33-38. John says, "But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet {given}, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:39)

Jesus in John 14:16-17 told of the coming of the Holy Spirit. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." Note Jesus said the Spirit would be in all future believers.

WHAT THEN IS THE FILLING OF HOLY SPIRIT?

The filling of the Spirit is not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Where as the believer is *not* told to be Baptized with the Spirit, he is told that he is to filled with the Spirit. "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18)

The verse instructs us not to be drunk with wine, which is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. The verse is using the example of one being drunk or under the control of alcohol to illustrate that similarly a Christian should let himself be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Paul's use of the example of "be not drunk with wine" is a reference to the First Century idea that alcohol was the "drink of the Gods" and its effects on man was the power of God, and caused the drinker to receive greater spiritual awareness or inspiration. Paul dismisses this idea as "debauchery" which is what the phrase "wherein is excess" means. Paul illustrates, by using the example of the one who is letting alcohol control him, that the Christian is to let the Holy Spirit, who indwells him, control him.

The phrase "filled with the Spirit", means "to be under the influence of". Examples of being filled with the Spirit in the New Testament are as follows:

1. Jesus, in Luke 4:1, said he was "full of the Holy Spirit."
2. Stephen, was "full of faith and the Holy Spirit" Acts 6:5, 7:55.
3. Barnabas, also was full of the Spirit. Acts 11:24.
4. Peter, preached in Acts 4:8 "filled with the Holy Ghost."
5. The first deacons, in Acts 6:3, to be qualified must be men "full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom."

Whereas the God nowhere in Scripture commands a person to Baptized with the Holy Spirit, God does command that we be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Letting oneself be filled with the Spirit is reference to the fact that the Christian has two natures (Rom.6 and 7). One is the old or carnal nature and the other is the new nature or spiritual one. The Christian can let himself be controlled by the old nature and sin (I John 1:8-10), or can allow the Holy Spirit who indwells him influence him. (Eph. 5:18) Who is influencing us is determined by ones submissiveness to Holy Spirit or the lust of our carnal flesh. Acts 13:10, Elymas the sorcerer who was a false prophet, is said of Paul to have been "full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil". Paul in Romans 1:29 says that man, "being filled will all unrighteousness fornication...etc", willingly gave up his knowledge of God. These verses show that man in different degrees can let himself be controlled by his carnal nature.

CONCLUSION

The Bible teaches that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Filling of the Holy Spirit are separate functions or ministries of the Holy Spirit.

The examples in the Book of Acts of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after salvation, as happened at Pentecost, Acts 2, and subsequently in Acts 8, 10 and 19, are the accounts of believers receiving the "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit. In each case mentioned in Acts those who received the Baptism, were believers who were saved under the Old Testament dispensation of the Law.

When they heard the Gospel, which was the "Good News", that Jesus was the Messiah, and had arisen from the grave they gladly accepted this, and received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which had been promised by Jesus. They thus when they heard the Gospel, received Christ and became a part of the church age or the dispensation of Grace, which is the Body of Christ. It is important to note that in no case in the New Testament was the Baptism sought. It was understood that all would receive the indwelling as promised.

At the time of the beginning of the church things were different. One thing different was that all those who became a part of the church in its beginning were Jewish believers! They were saved saints of God. However, they were not at first in the church. Why. Christ had not begun it until the Day of Pentecost! Today, this is not the case. The church now carries the Gospel to the lost. They do not know God. Folks who come into the church are all to a soul lost in their sins. The lost when they receive Christ as Savior, they receive the Holy Spirit being indwelled by the Spirit of God and become a part of the church, the bride of Christ.

In time the church as Gentiles were saved the church became part Jew and part Gentile. After a time most of the saved Old Testament Jews who were waited for the coming Messiah, heard the Gospel and became a part of the church. After 70 AD, with the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the Jews, Judaism was destroyed and ceased to exist. The church within a century had become all Gentile which is our situation today. We rejoice to hear today of Jews who are saved and receive Christ as their Savior. However, they are lost Jews, not Old Testament saints and when saved become a part of the church, the body of Christ.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say or infer that the proof one has the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, is that they speak in "tongues" (known languages). However, Gal. 5:22-23, says the "fruit of the Spirit" is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance. Note that "tongues" is not mentioned as a fruit of the Spirit. All of these come not from our carnal nature, but from ones submissiveness to the spiritual nature only the believer has.

Further, one can not partially receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person. You can not partially receive a person. The Holy Spirit can only be fully and permanently received.

OTHER SCRIPTURES WHICH SPEAK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE BELIEVER

"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5:5)

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. (10) And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:9-11)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:16).

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19)?

"Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, (22) who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

"This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? (4) Have you suffered so many things in vain - if indeed it was in vain? (5) Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith (Galatians 3:2-5)?

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your

salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14).

"Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 4:8).

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Shortly after January 22, 1972, when the Lord saved me I came into contact with Charismatics. I was a happy maturing new born child of God! I loved the Lord and was witnessing, being faithful to my church, and also teaching a teenage Sunday School Class. I was then told by the Charismatics I was not what Christ wanted me to be. I was told I did not have the whole Gospel and I was spiritually lacking. However, they said all that could be remedied if I would receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I loved God and wanted God's blessing. I wanted to be lacking in nothing, so I started attending the Full Gospel Business Men's Association and other Charismatic services. I was impressed with the high spirits of those present, but disappointed at the tone of the meetings. These folks seemed to represent themselves as far superior to others who have not had their experience. I prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and this wonderful encounter with God I was told I needed. No one could have prayed in any more earnest than did I, yet nothing happened. Then I turned the Bible and began reading everything it has to say about the Holy Spirit. I purchased all the books on the subject I could find. I listened to hours of tapes pro and con. My teenage Sunday School class was at this time also being greatly influence by Charismatic teenage musicians outside of our church as was also my Training Union Class. I desperately wanted to know the truth. I began a series of lessons in which our class began to study the matter in depth. It was not long before I began to see major differences between what was happening in the Bible and what happened in the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. Further I found great numbers of problems with what these groups were teaching and what God says clearly in His Word. In time, I separated myself from this group as did the teenagers in my class. We all grew in the Lord as we studied the Word of God. We let the Holy Spirit, who we found indwelled and empowered us when we were saved, have free course in our lives. I am happy to say that God continued to work in my life and called to be a pastor in 1977. I have been faithful to that calling to this very hour. I am also happy to see these many years later that every member of my teenage Sunday School class is faithfully serving the Lord. They are all now grown with families. One was a missionary to Scotland for over fifteen years and now with her husband are missionaries there. The others all have married Christians and have Christian homes. They are deacons, youth leaders, Christian singers and faithful supporters of their churches. My heart weeps in joy when I think of how God is using each of them. What a glory they are to the Lord and testimony of God's faithfulness.

Sadly this misguided Charismatic was mistakenly telling us to pray and seek what we already had. That is evident by what the Bible says on the matter and the Power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word is evident also in what God has done in each of our lives.

There are many believers who are caught up in groups which teach this error. They teach that when believers are saved they are not baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive the permanent indwelling of the Spirit of God. How confusing it was and how confusing it must be for many under this false teaching. How discouraging to supposedly be saved yet be told you are not empowered with the Spirit of God to live a victorious life in

Christ. Some I knew faked the experience to be able to receive the praise of their groups. One very good friend of many years told of the years of emotional ups and downs and the frustration he felt by the teaching of the Pentecostal movement.

Some had an experience and were told it was the receiving of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Charismatic meetings, groups of people whipped up emotionally and coaxed into an emotional fever. They are told to repeat phrases over and over as fast as they could in order to get the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. I wonder how many who had this experience live in a false sense of being right with God because they had this emotional experience. How many found that even after this high emotional experience they were no more able to live for the Lord than before. How many are now living defected lives, because their experience in time wore off and left them void. Many have fallen by the way side because of being misled by the teachings of the Pentecostals and Charismatics.

God's way is the only way. A believer is totally forgiven and saved at conversion. He is indwelled and given the New Nature, which is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God. He literally becomes the Temple of God. When he fails and sins, he is convicted of the Spirit of God. He can then return to full fellowship to God, by confessing his sin and letting God cleanse him and take it away. If he does not God chastens him to bring him back into fellowship once again (Heb. 12:6-11).

In times when I am not what I know Christ would have me be; when I fail and cry out to my Savior to forgive me is it most comforting to know He does. My very favorite verse in these times is Colossians 2:9-10, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." Because I was saved by God's Grace and indwelled by the Holy Spirit, I have all the power of God in me, if I would but yield to it.

My life's verse: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

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