

Great Controversy Series
A True Reformer's Gift & Power
Chapter 7 - Luther's Separation From Rome
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

In order to be a true reformer in these last days you MUST have the gift and power of the Holy Spirit through the study and application of God's Word!

How do you receive the power of the Holy Spirit to resist sin, grow spiritually and to understand and apply God's Word in your life?

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Once you sincerely and fully receive the gift of grace and the gift of salvation you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost which will empower you to resist sin, grow spiritually, and to understand and apply God's Word in your life. The Holy Ghost will give you supernatural power to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ.

The gift of the Holy Spirit cannot be earned! It is a gift, but the gift of grace and salvation MUST accepted first. The forsaking of sin and turning to Jesus with your whole heart MUST happen first.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes(conditions/covenant), and ye shall keep my judgments (commandments), and do *them*.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

The indwelling gift and power of the Holy Spirit to do the works of God is a necessity for your daily spiritual growth. Without Holy Spirit daily dwelling in your life it is literally impossible to grow.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Do you really have to possess the gift and power of the Holy Spirit to make it to the kingdom of heaven?

John 3:5-6

5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Will the Holy Spirit dwell in someone who has rebelled and corrupted themselves with sin?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ezekiel 33:12-13

12 Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth.

13 When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

Sin separates us from being filled completely with the Holy Spirit. If you neglect the study of God's word and yield to the distraction and temptations of Satan you are not filled.

1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

What is the Holy Spirit's role when I know I am in known sin?**John 16:8-9, 13**

8 And when he [Comforter – Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

If you are in known sin the Holy Spirit's role is to convict you of sin and receive the gift of grace and salvation then the power gift of the Holy Spirit! But you don't have the gift in you if you decide to stay in sin once the ten commandments and the Holy Spirit convict you of sin.

Either you are completely FULL or completely EMPTY

Your spiritual growth has a direct relation to be filled by the Holy Spirit. Be "filled" is complete filling, not empty. Spiritual growth and advancement depends on it. Growth will not happen at each stage of your Christian experience without it. You are either completely filled or completely empty. There is no in-between. You are completely filled to have the power, the will, and the zeal to do the works of Jesus Christ or not. If you are not filled, you are still in sin.

Spiritual growth is REQUIRED in your Christian experience**1 Peter 2:1-2**

1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses

exercised to discern both good and evil.

Ephesians 4:13-15

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Spiritual growth does not lead to a graduation but it is the work of sanctification. You MUST grow up into the standard of Jesus Christ, step by step. Your growth is “complete” at each stage in your growth through complete filling of the Holy Spirit.

{Show graphic... complete filled at each stage of spiritual growth. 1 2 3 4... growing in the stature of Christ...}

What comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

You and I must go through fire! The fire are the fiery trails of life to purify you into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

All true reformers are completely filled with the Holy Spirit at each stage of their growth.

During the dark ages of Papal Rome's oppression of truth from 538 to 1798 God's raised up true reformers who were completely filled with the Holy Spirit at their stage of growth. God did not give fully give the light at once during this time. The light would have blinded them. God gradually gave light during the protestant reformation.

Who built the foundation of the protestant reformation in Europe by translating the Bible from Latin to English? John Wycliffe's

Who read the writing of Wycliffe while in Bohemia and sparked the protestant reformation in the “heart of Europe?” John Huss

Who gave the writings of Wycliffe to Huss and united in his ministry and was martyred like Huss? Jerome of Prague

Who sent back missionaries of the reformation and the writings Wycliffe tracts back to her native land in Bohemia? Queen Anne of England

Another example of a true reformer is Martin Luther of Germany. He ignited the protestant reformation with more light and power that had a profound impact worldwide.

Let's learn more about Martin Luther.

“Foremost among those who were called to lead the church from the darkness of popery into the light of a

purser faith, stood Martin Luther. Zealous, ardent, and devoted, knowing no fear but the fear of God, and acknowledging no foundation for religious faith but the Holy Scriptures, Luther was the man for his time; through him God accomplished a great work for the reformation of the church and the enlightenment of the world." GC – 120

Side Note: Martin King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the Pastor Martin Luther King, Sr. (1899–1984) and Alberta Williams King (1904–1974). King's legal name at birth was Michael King, and his father was also born Michael King, but the elder King changed his and his son's names following a 1934 trip to Germany to attend the Fifth Baptist World Alliance Congress in Berlin. It was during this time he chose to be called Martin Luther King in honor of the German reformer Martin Luther.

Luther's Beginning

Born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany under Papal Roman oppression and superstition (show map)

Grew up in a family who loved God and taught him the basics of the knowledge of God that they knew because the Bible was not available to them.

Luther had a very strong father who was a very hard worker as a miner and very distrustful of the life of a monk. It was not practical or purposeful

Family was very poor. While in school he had on occasion sing from door to door from money to eat

In grade school he was bullied and treated harshly

With the work ethic and discipline he learned from his parents, Luther developed a love for learning and devoted his time to study

University of Erfurt

Luther's father determined that Luther would be a lawyer so he worked and saved money for Luther to go to college

18 years old entered the University

While doing research as the university's library he discovered a Latin Holy Bible. He never seen a Bible before. He only heard some portions read from it while growing up as a Catholic

"Now, for the first time, he looked upon the whole of God's word. With mingled awe and wonder he turned the sacred pages; with quickened pulse and throbbing heart he read for himself the words of life, pausing now and then to exclaim: "O that God would give me such a book for myself!"--Ibid., b. 2, ch. 2. Angels of heaven were by his side, and rays of light from the throne of God revealed the treasures of truth to his understanding. He had ever feared to offend God, but now the deep conviction of his condition as a sinner took hold upon him as never before. " GC - 122

Monastery Life

Luther felt that a life a monk and the many religious works of rosaries, vigils, many fastings, and scourging would free him from his deep sense of guilt as a sinner.

Luther's father was greatly against him for going into the monastery. He was so upset he did not speak to Luther for about two years!

Found a Bible chained the convent wall. Often studied it, but still felt a deep sense of his sinfulness.

Luther was a very devote monk

"I was indeed a pious monk," he afterward said, "and followed the rules of my order more strictly than I can express. If ever monk could obtain heaven by his monkish works, I should certainly have been entitled to it. . . . If it had continued much longer, I should have carried my mortifications even to death."--Ibid., b. 2, ch. 3. As the result of this painful discipline he lost strength and suffered from fainting spasms, from the effects of which he never fully recovered. But with all his efforts his burdened soul found no relief. He was at last driven to the verge of despair." GC - 123

Staupitz A Humble Friend

When it appeared that Luther was going to go into deep despair with no hope, God gave words to Luther's friend Staupitz that had a profound impact of the life of Martin Luther.

"Instead of torturing yourself on account of your sins, throw yourself into the Redeemer's arms. Trust in Him, in the righteousness of His life, in the atonement of His death. . . . Listen to the Son of God. He became man to give you the assurance of divine favor." "Love Him who first loved you." - GC - 123

Professor at University of Wittenburg

Ordained as priest and called to a professorship at the University of Wittenburg (show map of location)

Devoted himself to the study of the scriptures (Hebrew and Greek)

Filled with the Holy spirit he grow mighty in the scriptures step by step

Taught his students and others on the pulpit of things he learned from the scriptures

Still a devote Catholic priest and professor with no intentions of leaving the Catholic church

First Visit to Rome

Luther took a journey to the "mother" land of Rome hoping to get a deep spiritual insights

He lodged in other convents along the way to Rome and found the priests and monks to be caught up in sinful devising, money, and wealth.

Rome was worst! He thought is was "Holy City"

"No one can imagine," he wrote, "what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome; they must be seen and heard to be believed. Thus they are in the habit of saying, 'If there is a hell, Rome is built over it: it is an abyss whence issues every kind of sin.'" - GC 124

Pilate's Staircase, Luther's Transformation that led to Reformation

Supposedly the same staircase the Jesus went down after His sentencing to the cross from Pilate's court

Miraculously it was transported from Jerusalem to Vatican Rome! [This was a lie from the papacy]

Luther like many thought that climbing these steps on their knees would draw them closer to God

Luther was one day devoutly climbing these steps, when suddenly a voice like thunder seemed to say to him: "The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17. He sprang to his feet and hastened from the place in shame and horror. That text never lost its power upon his soul. From that time he saw more clearly than ever before the

fallacy of trusting to human works for salvation, and the necessity of constant faith in the merits of Christ. His eyes had been opened, and were never again to be closed, to the delusions of the papacy. When he turned his face from Rome he had turned away also in heart, and from that time the separation grew wider, until he severed all connection with the papal church. - GC - 125

Return to University of Wittenburg

More devote to studying and teaching the scriptures

Scriptures only authority to truth

He believe in prayer and the study "To pray well," he often said, "is the better half of study." - GC - 122

Sale of Indulgences in Germany

Certificate of Indulgences - Buy payment for the forgiveness of sin for the living and "dead", even before committing a sin in which repentance was not necessary

Added more money to Papal Rome's pockets to built great buildings and "St. Peter's Basilica " in Rome

In 1516, Johann Tetzel a convicted criminal was tasked by Papal Rome to head the indulgences operation – presented himself as a god to the people with the blessing of Rome

Many people in Wittenburg bought indulgences from Tetzel, even members of Luther's church congretation

Luther Rejection of the Indulgences

There were some priest against indulgences, but were afraid to speak out against the papacy

Luther openly rejected the indulgences. He believed in true repentance in which only God can forgiven

Tetzel filled with Rage against Luther

After hearing Luther many people wanted their money back!

The Nails of PROTEST

Luther's wrote 95 statements that exposed the errors of indulgences of papal Rome and that true forgiveness can only be through Christ; man is justified only through the merits of Jesus by faith

Many people came to castle church of Wittenberg to celebrate all saints day on October 31, 1517

Luther nailed his 95 arguments on the door of the church.

Caused a major stir throughout Wittenburg with then spread throughout the worldwide

This was the FUEL that added to the fire of the protestant reformation

"He had felt confident that the leaders of the people, both in the church and in the schools, would gladly unite with him in efforts for reform. Words of encouragement from those in high position had inspired him with joy and hope. Already in anticipation he had seen a brighter day dawning for the church. But encouragement had changed to reproach and condemnation. Many dignitaries, of both church and state, were convicted of the truthfulness of his theses; but they soon saw that the acceptance of these truths would involve great changes." - GC - 131

Luther's Protestant Continued

Teaching and writing spread like wild fire

Luther never thought that he would depart from Rome

Friend Melancthon joined Luther in ministry. Excellent team in strengthen the protestant reformation over the years

Declared A heretic by Rome

Rome threaten excommunication to Luther and supporters

Luther went before a representative of Rome in the city of Augsburg in Germany

All the papacy wanted was Luther to retract. He refused.

The blood of Luther is all they wanted

"Luther's efforts on this occasion were not without good results. The large assembly present had opportunity to compare the two men, and to judge for themselves of the spirit manifested by them, as well as of the strength and truthfulness of their positions. How marked the contrast! The Reformer, simple, humble, firm, stood up in the strength of God, having truth on his side; the pope's representative, self-important, overbearing, haughty, and unreasonable, was without a single argument from the Scriptures, yet vehemently crying: "Retract, or be sent to Rome for punishment." - GC - 137

Next day he was able to escape the hands of the papacy

"Rome became more and more exasperated by the attacks of Luther, and it was declared by some of his fanatical opponents, even by doctors in Catholic universities, that he who should kill the rebellious monk would be without sin. One day a stranger, with a pistol hidden under his cloak, approached the Reformer and inquired why he went thus alone. "I am in God's hands," answered Luther. "He is my strength and my shield. What can man do unto me?"--Ibid., b. 6, ch. 2. Upon hearing these words, the stranger turned pale and fled away as from the presence of the angels of heaven." - GC - 140

Writing of John Huss

"It was about this time that Luther, reading the works of Huss, found that the great truth of justification by faith, which he himself was seeking to uphold and teach, had been held by the Bohemian Reformer. "We have all," said Luther, "Paul, Augustine, and myself, been Hussites without knowing it!" "God will surely visit it upon the world," he continued, "that the truth was preached to it a century ago, and burned!" - GC - 140

Appeal for Christian Reformation in Germany

Luther appealed the emperor and nobility of Germany for Christian Reformation throughout the churches and universities

He wrote thus of the universities: "I am much afraid that the universities will prove to be the great gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the word of God must become corrupt." - GC - 141

Luther Burns Papal Bull & total separation

Luther was given a papal bull to appear before them in Rome, he burned it in front of a crowd out of protest

“Yet it was not without a terrible struggle with himself that Luther decided upon a final separation from the church. It was about this time that he wrote: "I feel more and more every day how difficult it is to lay aside the scruples which one has imbibed in childhood. Oh, how much pain it has caused me, though I had the Scriptures on my side, to justify it to myself that I should dare to make a stand alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist! What have the tribulations of my heart not been! How many times have I not asked myself with bitterness that question which was so frequent on the lips of the papists: 'Art thou alone wise? Can everyone else be mistaken? How will it be, if, after all, it is thyself who art wrong, and who art involving in thy error so many souls, who will then be eternally damned?' 'Twas so I fought with myself and with Satan, till Christ, by His own infallible word, fortified my heart against these doubts." - GC – 143

Present Truth Today

“Opposition is the lot of all whom God employs to present truths specially applicable to their time. There was a present truth in the days of Luther,--a truth at that time of special importance; there is a present truth for the church today.” - 143

Powerful Appeal

“But truth is no more desired by the majority today than it was by the papists who opposed Luther. There is the same disposition to accept the theories and traditions of men instead of the word of God as in former ages. Those who present the truth for this time should not expect to be received with greater favor than were earlier reformers. The great controversy between truth and error, between Christ and Satan, is to increase in intensity to the close of this world's history.” - GC 143

“Said Jesus to His disciples: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also." John 15:19, 20. And on the other hand our Lord declared plainly: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." Luke 6:26. The spirit of the world is no more in harmony with the spirit of Christ today than in earlier times, and those who preach the word of God in its purity will be received with no greater favor now than then. The forms of opposition to the truth may change, the enmity may be less open because it is more subtle; but the same antagonism still exists and will be manifested to the end of time. - GC 144