In the Hands of Christ My King

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The Christian journey fundamentally changes when we begin to ask God for more of His precious Holy Spirit to be poured out into us. If we make it a daily discipline to ask, "God, please fill me with your Holy Spirit," God answers that prayer. The Holy Spirit leads us, guides us, directs us, and empowers us for greater faithfulness in our walks with Christ. There is a beautiful Trinitarian dance at play when we ask God the Father to give us more of the Spirit so that we might know and be certain of the work of the Son. "In the Hands of Christ My King" is a prayerful song that walks us into the middle of that dance.

We can request more of the Holy Spirit's power in our lives.

"Come Holy Spirit, move in power"

The request at the outset of the song is a simple one. It is a cry that has marked the church from the very beginning. It was the exhortation of Christ to the church that they do nothing until the Spirit moved in power (Acts 1:4-8), and it was their experience that the Spirit moved powerfully in their midst again and again (Acts 2:2; 4:31; 9:31; 10:44; 13:9; 13:24; 13:52; 19:6). When Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, he exhorted them to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) as the fuel in their quest to live holy lives as a community of faith. The cry of the believer for the manifest power of the Spirit should be frequent and faith-filled.

The Holy Spirit helps us to glorify Christ.

"All my hope is found in the hands of Christ my King / May my life be found in the hands of Christ my King"

Part of what Jesus promised would be evidence of the moving of the Spirit was an increased glorification of the Son and a sure and certain resting in the truth of the gospel. This is what Jesus promised in the gospel of John when He said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:13-14 CSB).

Spurgeon summarized this when he said:

It is the chief office of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ. He does many things, but this is what he aims at in all of them, to glorify Christ. Brethren, what the Holy Ghost does must be right for us to imitate: therefore, let us endeavour to glorify Christ. To what higher ends can we devote ourselves, than

to something to which God the Holy Ghost devotes himself? Be this, then, your emotional prayer, "Blessed Spirit, help me ever to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ!" 1

The chorus sings of this result. The resulting song of a Spirit-filled people is that all of their hope and indeed life lies solely in the kind kingship of Jesus Christ.

We need the presence and power of God more than anything.

"If You're not here I don't want to be"

This outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which moves our minds and hearts to glorify Christ, ought to result in a realization: our lives need the presence and power of God more than anything else, and a life lived without the manifest company of God is a life that is not worth pursuing. Once we have tasted the presence of the precious Holy Spirit, then our hearts ought to refuse to settle for a life that lacks that flavor. This is a cry of dependence and an acknowledgement of deep need which ought to mark our gathered times of worship in order to guard us against the dull drudgery of just running meetings and never actually meeting with God.

So, "Come Holy Spirit..." Show us the glory of the Son so that we might find all of our hope in Him and His work. And help us to realize that without Your presence and Your power at work in our midst, our gatherings will be ineffective and unattractive to the world around us.

¹ Charles H. Spurgeon, "The Holy Spirit's Chief Office" (sermon, London, England July 26, 1888), oChristian, http://articles.ochristian.com/article8403.shtml.

