



SAFE HARBOR

A Publication of Cove Fellowship Ministries

William E. Lang Jr., Director

VOLUME 20.03

All Rights Reserved.

Cove Fellowship Ministries, Inc.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

When the Apostle came to Ephesus, he found a group of believers there and questioned them, asking, “***Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?***” This group of believers then answered saying, “***We have not even heard there is a Holy Spirit.***”

Sadly, this would be the response of many Christians today.

Churches have lost the reality of the Holy Spirit as the requisite for a life of spiritual power, reflecting the image of God within. In his discourses found in John 14-17, Jesus is very emphatic about the coming of the Holy Spirit into the life of the believer and of the Church.

The Christian is meant to bring the presence of God to the Temple of our bodies to serve as witnesses to the glory of God and His kingdom. The promise that Jesus gives the disciples, in this most intimate occasion, is that “He and the Father will make their home” in the ones who loves and keeps the law of love.

A careful look at John 14-17 reveals the following:

1. Jesus promised to send another *Helper* to be with His disciples that the world neither sees nor knows him. The reality of this promise is that the lives in them and will bring the presence of God into their lives.
2. In God’s economy it is his presence which validates the new life in Christ, not signs nor wonders. Jesus, himself, stated that a perverse generation seeks after signs. The testimony of the presence of the Holy Spirit is doing His Commandments.
3. The Holy Spirit is to become the Divine Teacher of all believers, leading them into the truth which leads to understanding the path of salvation so that we need not ascend to the *Mount Nebo of our faith*, but enter into the promised land of the new heavens and new earth.

To receive the Spirit, we must first set our eyes upon our Savior, recognizing that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and that we are his creation who have rejected and even despised the commandments of God. Then we must rise up and follow Him even into the dark, dark valley

being led only by his light and faith that he knows the way and will lead us safely through. We must surrender our pride, desires and being to be reconstructed in the image of God so that the temple of our bodies is cleansed and fit for God to dwell within.

So it amazed me when I read the results of a Barna poll that 75% of senior pastors and clergy view the Holy Spirit as only a force and not a person. Such a belief as this not only denies the orthodoxy of the Church but it relegates the Holy Spirit to a less than real member of the Trinity. Per Scripture the Holy Spirit is that manifestation of God who brings holiness and power to the believer as well as continues the presence of Jesus to those who have found redemption for their souls. To make the Holy Spirit only some supernatural force denies the real presence of God into the lives of those to whom Jesus promised, “***Behold I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth!***”.

So, as Paul writes that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, we must open ourselves to his abiding presence in the person of the Holy Spirit.

WORDS OF COMFORT

Ezekiel 36:25-29
Complete Jewish Bible

²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you,
and you will be clean;
I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness
and from all your idols.
²⁶ I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit inside you;
I will take the stony heart out of your flesh
and give you a heart of flesh.
²⁷ I will put my Spirit inside you
and cause you to live by my laws,
respect my rulings and obey them.
²⁸ You will live in the land I gave to your ancestors.
You will be my people,
and I will be your God.
²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleanness.
I will summon the grain and increase it,
and not send famine against you.

Dark Night of the Soul

By St. John of the Cross

Translated by A.Z. Foreman

Songs of the soul rejoicing at having achieved the high state of perfection, the Union with God, by way of spiritual negation.

*Once in the dark of night,
Inflamed with love and yearning, I arose
(O coming of delight!)
And went, as no one knows,
When all my house lay long in deep repose*

*All in the dark went right,
Down secret steps, disguised in other clothes,
(O coming of delight!)
In dark when no one knows,
When all my house lay long in deep repose.*

*And in the luck of night
In secret places where no other spied
I went without my sight
Without a light to guide
Except the heart that lit me from inside.*

*It guided me and shone
Surer than noonday sunlight over me,
And led me to the one
Whom only I could see
Deep in a place where only we could be.*

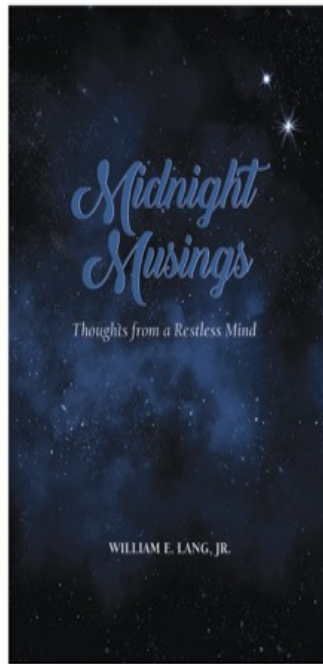
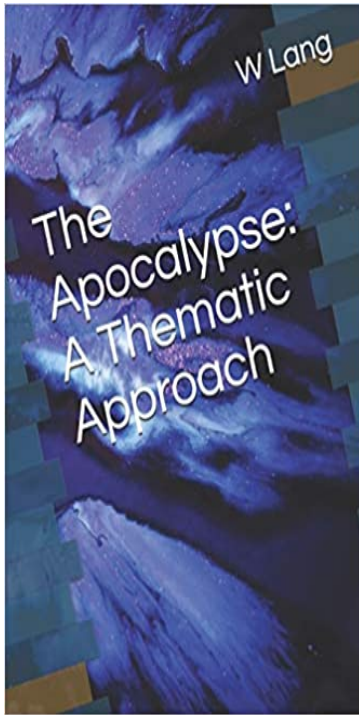
*O guiding dark of night!
O dark of night more darling than the dawn!
O night that can unite
A lover and loved one,
Lover and loved one moved in unison.*

*And on my flowering breast
Which I had kept for him and him alone
He slept as I caressed
And loved him for my own,
Breathing an air from redolent cedars blown.*

*And from the castle wall
The wind came down to winnow through his hair
Bidding his fingers fall,
Searing my throat with air
And all my senses were suspended there.*

*I stayed there to forget.
There on my lover, face to face, I lay.
All ended, and I let
My cares all fall away
Forgotten in the lilies on that day.*

You can follow Cove Fellowship at www.billlangservices.com , email to covefellowship@verizon.net or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.



Available on Amazon and Kindle.