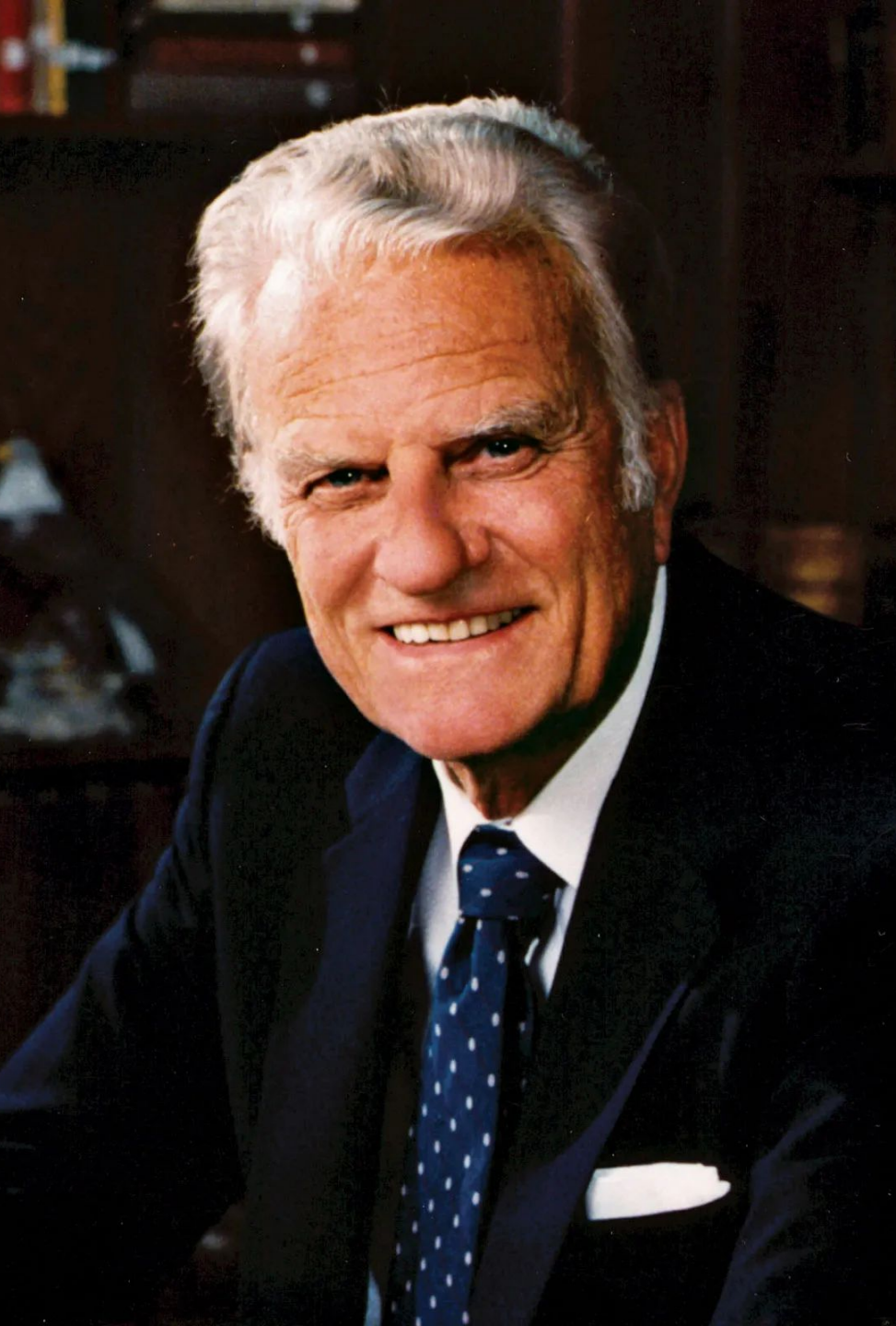


Man has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness. Consciously or unconsciously, his inner being longs for both... God heard that first cry for help, that cry for forgiveness, and answered it at Calvary. God sent His only Son into the world to die for our sins, so that we might be forgiven...



But God also heard our second cry, that cry for goodness, and answered it at Pentecost... To the great gift of forgiveness God adds also the great gift of the Holy Spirit... He gives us the power to be truly good.

—Billy Graham



THE SPIRIT

AND

HIS WORK



John 1:29-34

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."



John 1:29-34

³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."



Outline

1. Jesus bears the Spirit
2. Jesus promises the Spirit
3. Jesus gives the Spirit



1. Jesus bears the Spirit

John 1:29-34



John 1:32-33

And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'



The Spirit's Work in the Life of Jesus

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Incarnation | "the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35) |
| Baptism | "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and... he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him" (Matt. 3:16) |
| Temptation | Led by the Spirit into wilderness to be tested, returns in power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1,14) |
| Ministry | "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38) |
| Death | "Christ...through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God" (Heb. 9:24) |
| Resurrection | Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4). |

THE HOLY SPIRIT

SINCLAIR B. FERGUSON

CONTOURS *of*
CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGY

From womb to tomb to throne, the Spirit was the constant companion of the Son. As a result, when he comes to Christians to indwell them, he comes as the Spirit of Christ in such a way that to possess him is to possess Christ himself.

—Sinclair Ferguson

John 1:33

I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'



1. Jesus bears the Spirit

Application

- Beware of any “spiritual” experience that bypasses Jesus.



1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.



John 16:13-15

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.



1 Corinthians 12:3

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.



Romans 8:9b

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.



2. Jesus promises the Spirit

John 7:37-39



John 7:37-39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' " ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.



2. Jesus promises the Spirit

John 7:37-39





2. Jesus promises the Spirit

John 7:37-39



2. Jesus promises the Spirit

Application

- Don't make your past experiences the gauge of what is possible in your relationship with God.



2. Jesus promises the Spirit

Application

- Don't make your past experiences the gauge of what is possible in your relationship with God.
- If you are thirsty, come to Christ to drink!



3. Jesus gives the Spirit

John 20:19-22



John 20:19-22

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

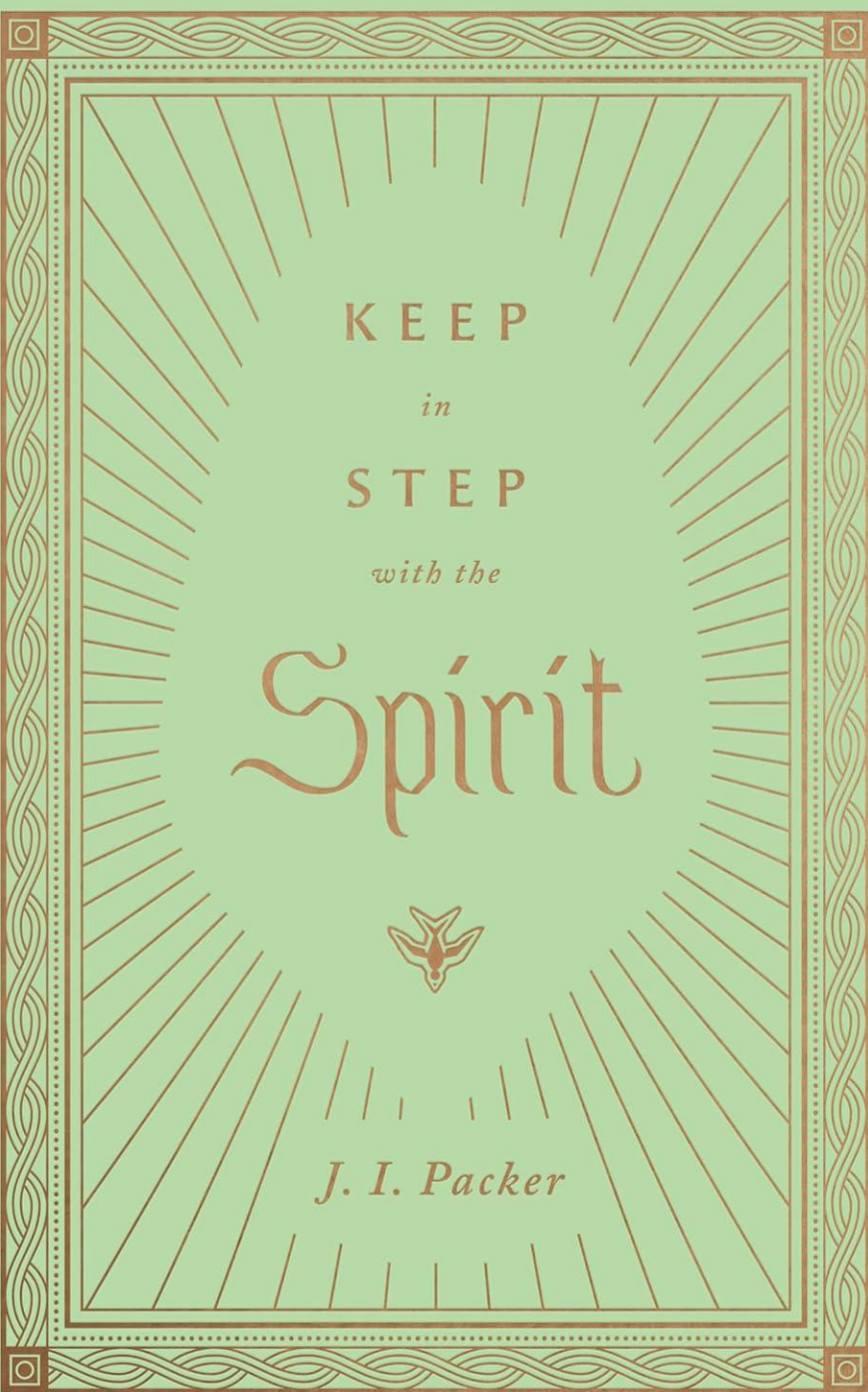


3. Jesus gives the Spirit

Application

- Have you received the gift of the Spirit?

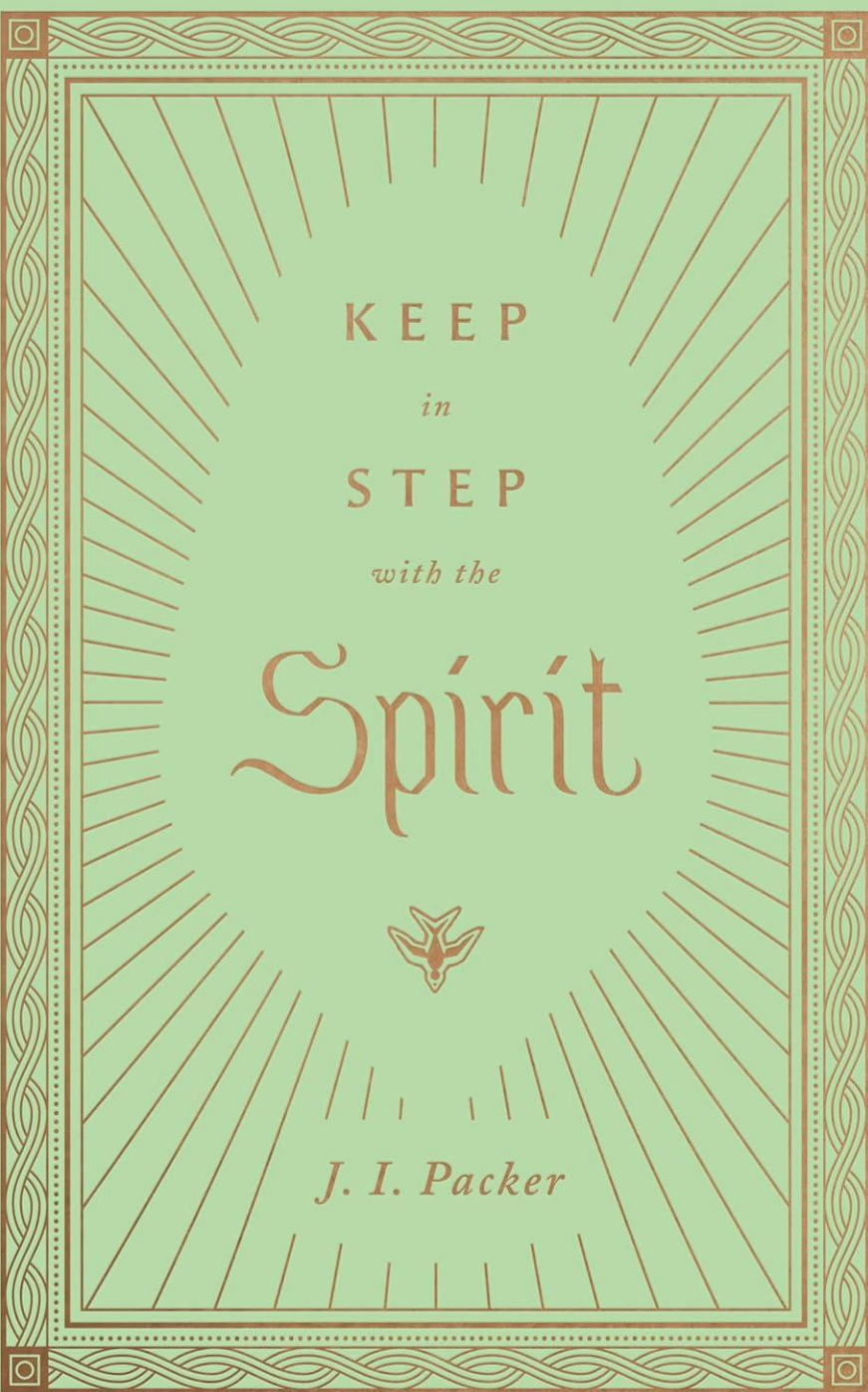




KEEP
in
STEP
with the
Spirit

J. I. Packer

What is the essence, heart, and core of the Spirit's work today? ...Is there a single divine strategy that unites all [facets] of his life-giving action as a means to one end? I think there is...the Spirit makes known the personal presence...of the risen, reigning Savior [in such a way that] three things keep happening.



KEEP
in
STEP
with the
Spirit

J. I. Packer

First, personal *fellowship* with Jesus becomes a reality of experience... Second, personal *transformation* of character into Jesus' likeness starts to take place... Third, the Spirit-given *certainty* of being loved, redeemed, and adopted through Christ into the Father's family makes gratitude, delight, hope, and confidence – in a word, *assurance* – blossom in believer's hearts.

—J. I. Packer

3. Jesus gives the Spirit

Application

- Have you received the gift of the Spirit?
- Are you growing in fellowship with Jesus, transformation into his likeness, and assurance of his grace?



3. Jesus gives the Spirit

How do we receive this gift?

- By looking to the crucified Christ, who was wounded for our sake, that we might receive the water of his Spirit (cf. John 20:20; 7:38-39; 19:34)

