



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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“Reviving Drooping Saints”

Dear Friend of Mary Craig Ministries,

We’ve been studying the Holy Spirit and came to 1 Peter in my series “His Name is the Holy Spirit.” (www.mcmtffr.org for free access) In researching the Greek to English translations and a few commentaries, a phrase stood out to me: “reviving drooping saints.”

When we read 1 Peter chapter one we learn that true believers are kept (garrisoned) by the power (*dunamis*/ability) of God. As we are spiritually enlightened concerning that power, we come to know what that power is, and the greatness of it. A. W. Pink notes: “The believer is as truly and directly preserved by the Spirit, as he was quickened by Him; and only as it is duly recognized by us will we be inclined to render Him that thanks and praise which is His distinctive due.”

From what is the believer preserved? Mainly, we are delivered from apostasy and preserved not only from everlasting burnings, but from those things which would expose us to danger of hellfire. The Holy Spirit does not preserve in a way of licentiousness; so we cannot think we can follow a course of evil and commit atrocities and NOT fail to come into the inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for us. (1 Peter 1:4) The Holy Spirit preserves only in the way of holiness as He goes about His business of “holying” those elect, or chosen, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:2) Grace does not permit what the Law prohibits.

We need the preserving power of the Holy Spirit, that garrison around us. Jesus said, “Without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) Paul said, “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.” (2 Corinthians 3:5)

We may indeed experience a fearful fall. We may be shocked to experience the “Father’s displeasure” as we cross the boundary between life and death. We won’t like reading Peter’s warning, one of many:

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 1 Peter 3:12

We are called to hate evil and do good; to seek peace and pursue it.

Peter is telling us under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that the power of God will keep or garrison the true believer in holiness. He will revive drooping saints.

A.W. Pink discusses this in his book, *The Holy Spirit*, page 161. He says that this is not like maintaining say, a tree or river. A river might dry up and a tree might be uprooted. A new water supply might replenish the river and nourishment might replenish the displaced tree. That’s using physical power, from without, and without the river or the tree concurring or helping in the process. With the true believer, God works from within, using moral suasion so that we come to concur in mind and will with the Holy Spirit in His work. God deals with us as moral agents and draws us “with cords of a man” (Hosea 11:4), maintains our responsibility, and bids us “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12, 13)

We always hear a lot about “revival.” Churches have “revival meetings,” some in large tents or arenas. There’s a lot of singing and shouting and maybe even some praying and reflection. True revival brings us back to life, a life we have known; but now, for various reasons, we’re drooping saints.

In true revival the preserving power of the Holy Spirit working on behalf of true believers to keep them in holiness means God is doing a work inside, in us as moral agents, such that we come to co-operate with the mind of Christ to do the will of the Father by the power and with the heart of the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:3 speaks of the “lively hope.” We can have events in our lives that lead us into a loss of confidence before God as our Father. Our hope fades, and we wonder whether the promises in the Bible are just empty words, devoid of power. We get depressed, restless, anxious, and feel slimed somehow, our feet in quicksand. We fear.

1 Peter 1 talks about redemption; that the elect were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from their former vain conversation [way of life] received by tradition from their fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ. It’s by Christ one believes in God and this God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ raised Christ up from the dead and gave Him glory; that our faith and hope might be in God.

See, when we're in a freefall, we've drifted. We've doubted. We've disobeyed in some way. And so we're heading toward death; we feel it deep inside where we live.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever. 1 Peter 1:23

We forgot something! We forgot truth through the Spirit! We're to obey that truth, the truth of the Gospel through the Spirit for the purpose of loving the brethren, loving one another with a pure heart fervently. We shifted our focus away from Jesus' kingdom to our world, to Satan and/or to sin and/or to the world's system. We got caught up in the petty conflicts of this world, which is passing away.

1 Peter 4:19 speaks of committing the keeping of our souls to God. The Greek word there means to place alongside, that is, present (food/truth); by implication to deposit (as a trust or for protection):--allege, commend commit (the keeping of), put forth, set before.

This is how the Holy Spirit revives drooping saints. He uses His power to support and maintain spiritual life in them in the process of "holying."

People are responsible before the Living God as moral agents. God treats us as moral agents responsible for our choices and decisions. The Holy Spirit sets before us weighty considerations and powerful motives. He gives solemn warnings. He promises rich rewards. He renews His grace and revives us by His Spirit to enable us to respond correctly; to make the right choice. We become conscious of the power and pollution of sin dwelling in us. We cry for help to resist and escape defilement and the devastation of sin and the disastrous state in which we find ourselves. We are shown the need of faith and beg for increase. We become aware of the flesh that hinders us and drags us down, like gravity to the grave. We have our eyes opened to the obedience to which we are called. We feel like our hearts have been run over a cabbage grater, yet we find ourselves as deep calling to deep that we might be fruitful, to bear the fruit of the Spirit; to bear the fruit of righteousness in the kingdom of God.

We discover the Psalms, with all the emotion being expressed in ways acceptable to the Father because given to us by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God starts to mean something to us, even if we ignored it before or screamed internally when people started quoting it to us. We were going our own way and then suddenly, the Holy Spirit came, reviving drooping saints.

Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live, and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law...My soul cleaves unto the dust: quicken me according to Your word...[let it be said of me] I will never forget Your precepts: for with them You have quickened me. Psalm 119:17, 18, 25, 93.

We're drooping because we stopped taking in the Word of God. We're only as strong relative to the amount of Word indwelling us. Truth needs to be in our inward core. We don't live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. We need to open our mouths and eat/take in the Word of God. Then we will start reviving and getting back on track.

My son, let not them depart from your eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion; so shall they be life unto your soul, and grace to your neck. Proverbs 3:21, 22

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2) I suggest reading all of Romans 8.

It is not the Law that gives life; the Law condemns us all, though it is holy, spiritual, and good. It is the Standard external to us that shows us our sin, that defines the boundary between life and death, and that displays what love looks like; but the Law cannot give life. The Holy Spirit gives life. And ingesting the Word of God is a means of grace.

It is the Spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit; and they are life. Jesus, John 6:63

The Spirit is the life producer, the One who causes to live, who makes alive, and who gives life. It is the Holy Spirit who quickens dead sinners, revives drooping saints, refreshes their spirits, and comforts in distress. We learn to yield to the Holy Spirit's operation in us because most assuredly, "He which has begun a good work in you will finish it." (Philippians 1:6)

We need the keeping power of the Holy Spirit as much as we need regeneration by the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit preserves. We persevere because the Holy Spirit preserves. What is reserved in heaven for us is worth suffering for, and because God is holy, we are to be holy, obeying the truth through the Spirit to the end that we might love one another with a pure heart. (1 Peter 1:22) Let the Holy Spirit revive your drooping heart today.

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By His grace, for His glory,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray] God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it. The Apostle Paul, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

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