

Halloween on Steroids

Getting a Grip on the Spirit World

Listen to what Paul writes in Ephesians 1:18-19 ... ¹⁸ | pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know [1] the hope to which he has called you, [2] the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and [3] his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Why do we need our eyes open? Why do we need incomparably great power? We have three big problems that need a big, supernatural God:

1. We see through a glass darkly.

1 Corinthians 13:12

Adam and Eve: THEIR EYES WERE OPENED. But which ones? Their NATURAL eyes. And human nature was turned upside down.

2. We pride ourselves in not being superstitious.

The worldview of most non-Westerners is three-tiered: on the top is the cosmic, transcendent world, in the middle are supernatural forces on the earth, and on the bottom rests the empirical world of our senses. The unique tendency of Western society [Europe and North America] has been to ignore the reality of the middle zone.

– George Otis

3. Life is a spiritual battle. Ephesians 6:10-12

How life is a spiritual battle...

1. Your mind.

2 Corinthians 11:3

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

2. **Your attitudes and emotions.** Ephesians 4:26-27

3. **Your family and your work.** Ephesians 6:10-12

4. **God's work. Advancing God's kingdom. Telling others about Jesus.**

Ephesians 2:1-2

2 Corinthians 4:4 ... Life is a big, bad spiritual battle.

Ephesians 1:18-21

Romans 8:11

The Holy Spirit and Jesus

His early years ... Luke 2:52 ... Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. For the first thirty years of his life, **Jesus was a good Christian!**

His baptism in the Jordan ... Luke 3:21-22 ... ²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." For the last three years of his life, **Jesus was a good Pentecostal.**

Jesus' baptism in the Spirit was the beginning of the end for the devil and hell.

What happened to Jesus—born of the Spirit and baptized in the Spirit's power—is what is supposed to happen to every Christian—born of the Spirit and baptized in the Spirit's power, because we live in a big, bad fallen world that has devils and demons in the middle zone.

1 Corinthians 2:4