

To illustrate how the indwelling of God can cause our hearts to desire Him more than we desire sin, J. D. Greer writes:

Think of [our relationship with Christ] like a balloon. There are two ways to keep a balloon afloat. If you fill a balloon with your breath, the only way to keep it in the air is to continually smack it upward. That's how religion keeps you motivated: it repeatedly "hits" you. "Stop doing this!" "Get busy with that!" This is my life as a pastor. People come on Sunday so I can "smack" them about something. "Be more generous!" And they do that for a week. "Go do missions!" And they sign up for a trip. Every week I smack them back into spiritual orbit. No wonder people don't like being around me.

But there's another way to keep a balloon afloat. Fill it with helium. Then it floats on its own, no smacking required. When we unleash the Holy Spirit within us it is like the helium that keeps us soaring spiritually.

[J. D. Greer, *Gospel: Recovering the Power That Made Christianity Revolutionary* (B&H Publishing, 2011), pp. 97-98]

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July 6, 2014

The Daily Bible Reading for this week will remind us that God gives us His Holy Spirit to enable us to be a bold witness to His grace.

- DAY ONE – John 20:19-23
- DAY TWO – Acts 1
- DAY THREE – Acts 2:1-13
- DAY FOUR – Acts 3
- DAY FIVE – Acts 8:1-4

Memory Verse: *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4b-5*

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