Spirit of Life Community Adventist Fellowship Pastor William Dawson Prayer Meeting 7-3-07 "What Happened When Adam Sinned-PART 4?"

<u>Review</u>. If God removed the results of Adam's choice he would be undoing Adam's freedom. We could not be free human beings if God magically spoofed away the result of every sin we commit. If we are to remain free, God has to let Adam's choice stand. We now live our lives with the damaging effects of sin. The good, and evil suffer alike. We all walk through the valley of the shadow of death. However, when we enter into a relationship with Jesus, He draws us into His perfection. When we die in Jesus, the effects of sin die with our bodies. God will then resurrect us with a new body that is free from sin. As we choose righteousness, the results of that choice must stand. We are free to have whatsoever we choose. This is how the war is played out. **Deut. 30:19,20; Joshua 24:14,15.**

After Jesus died, His followers buried Him. Three days later, God resurrected Him back to life. The disciples, who had been devastated by His death, were now elated to have Him back. However, He could not stay. He had removed the barrier between God, and mankind, and now He had to return to heaven so that His **<u>permanent replacement</u>** could come. This replacement was God the Holy Spirit. As the followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were also being filled with the presence of God. Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, mankind could be restored again to the relationship with God that was intended since creation.

The Holy Spirit came to fill the disciples in the Book of Acts. Now He comes to fill you, and me. As we invite Him in, He comes in. As we return to God, through acceptance of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is released in a new way to enter our lives. You do not have to wait until the resurrection, or sinless perfection to be restored back to God. Jesus removed all the guilt of sin, and now God is free to declare you legally perfect the moment you choose to come back to Him. God is able to declare you perfect because He lets you <u>"borrow"</u> Christ's perfect life. **Phil. 3:9-16.**

The word *religious* means to re-connect. It means to re-align. Out of all the religions of the world, <u>only one religion</u> offers a way to re-connect with the personal God of the universe. The Christian religion is about God reconnecting to us. As Christians, we are re-aligned with Him. The Bible is not about a system of set rules that will lead you to heaven. The Bible tells the story of how God went to incredible challenges to reestablish a relationship with people whom He loved dearly, and refused to let them perish in sin. God reunites with us through Jesus. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live in us. The family is together again.