



Main point: Pursue experiences of God's empowering presence.

1. Faith
2. Justification
3. Experience

#1:

"Fanaticism...is a terrible danger which we must always bear in mind. It arises from a divorce between Scripture and experience, where we put experience above Scripture claiming things that are not sanctioned by Scripture, or are perhaps even prohibited by it. But there is a second danger and it is equally important that we should bear it in mind. The second is the exact opposite of the first as these things generally go from one violent extreme to the other. The second danger, then, is that of being satisfied with something very much less than what is offered in the Scripture, and the danger of interpreting the Scripture by our experiences and reducing its teaching to the level of what we know and experience; and I would say that this second is the greater danger of the two at the present time."

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

#2:

"This "portrayal" came with words, not pictures. But it was so real, and so vivid, that Paul said it was an appeal to their eyes – "before your eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed." They saw the peculiar glory of Christ in the preaching of the gospel. Paul was so taken back by their apparent departure that he called it a kind of witchcraft. "Who has bewitched you?" They had been converted by seeing the peculiar glory of Jesus, most vividly in his crucifixion. His hope was that his letter would blow the demonic vapors away and restore the vivid sight of Christ's glory."

John Piper

Reading the Bible Supernaturally: Seeing and Savoring the Glory of God in Scripture

#3:

"Man's heart does not understand, nor believe, that so great a treasure, namely, the Holy Spirit, is given by only the hearing of faith but reasons after this manner: forgiveness of sins, deliverance, the giving of the Holy Spirit, of righteousness, and everlasting life, are great things, therefore, if you will obtain these inestimable benefits, you must perform some other great and weighty matter. This opinion the devil does well like and approve, and also increases the same in the heart...But we must think that it pleases God freely to give this unspeakable gift, to us, I say, who are unworthy. As Christ says in Luke: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's pleasure to give you the Kingdom" (10:32)."

Martin Luther
Commentary on Galatians



I once was a stranger to grace and to God,
I knew not my danger, and felt not my load;
Though friends spoke in rapture of Christ on the tree,
Jehovah Tsidkenu was nothing to me.
When free grace awoke me, by light from on high,
Then legal fears shook me, I trembled to die;
No refuge, no safety in self could I see—
Jehovah Tsidkenu my Savior must be.
My terrors all vanished before the sweet name;
My guilty fears banished, with boldness I came
To drink at the fountain, life-giving and free—
Jehovah Tsidkenu is all things to me.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

Jehovah Tsidkenu "The Lord Our Righteousness" The watchword of the Reformers

#5:

“Our own experience of the church tends to cause us to be either unfamiliar or quite uncomfortable with such phenomena. We would prefer to believe the Pauline churches were more like ours and less like the Pauline and Lukan documents suggest they really were. But the evidence in this case seems incontrovertible: the Spirit lay near the center of Pauline theology precisely because the experience of the Spirit in the life of the believer and the church was such a central feature of their experience and existence as believers.”

Gordon Fee

God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul