

## Tapping Into What God Has Given You



A little trivia for you history nerds: This year is the 120th anniversary of the oil gusher at Spindletop near Beaumont, TX. Why is that such a big deal? It's considered the launch of America's oil industry. Yes, America had an oil

industry before then. After all, Rockefeller's Standard Oil is what made him so filthy stinkin' rich. But things changed in 1901.

The 1901 discovery of oil in Texas came right at the time America would begin craving oil. Prior to this, oil was used chiefly for kerosene lamps. But the dawn of the 20th century brought with it the invention of the internal combustion engine. Cars, airplanes, and the neighbor kid's noisy little motorbike soon followed. Suddenly, we had a great need for oil—and lots of it.

A lot of Texans were just eking out an existence until oil was discovered. Great wealth lay under people's land in Beaumont, but it wasn't doing them any good. It wasn't until a mining engineer named Anthony Lucas drilled a well that sent oil gushing up 1000 feet in the air.

I lived in west Texas for many years, and I have no doubt there was a mess of oil under my little house. The potential for great income was there, but I never bothered to tap into it. And obviously none of my friends in the oil business saw fit to put a pump jack behind my garage. But I'm sure the oil was there. Sigh.

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Most of us live our lives like it's 1900 in Beaumont, Texas. We're getting by without ever realizing the great potential that resides within us. If you are a Christian, He has placed His Holy Spirit in you. The

same God who brought this universe into existence and raised Jesus from the dead is living in You.

- "The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:14).
- "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength. He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heaven" (vv. 18-20).

When you let His Holy Spirit work in you and through you ...

- ... you can forgive when others say the person is not worth forgiving.
- ... you can express joy when the same circumstances cause others to have a pity party.
- ... you can wait patiently behind the slow-moving car when others would prefer muttering derogatory expletives no one can hear over the horn honking.
- ... you can be gracious to others whose opinions and political views are, well, stupid and misinformed.
- ... you can live life to the full because you are full of the One who gives life.

God's Holy Spirit is right there. But don't let Him stay below the surface. Let the love, grace, and power of Christ come gushing out.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. ... If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23,25).