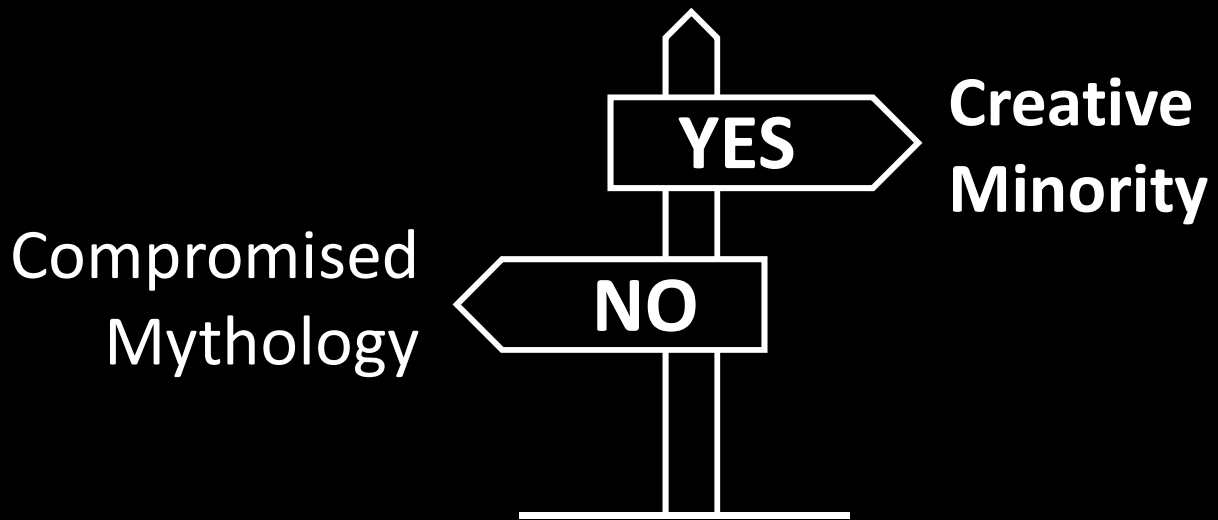


Dependent on the Holy Spirit

External
Crisis + Inner
Conviction + God-given
momentum = Church
Reformation

Jesus is Lord



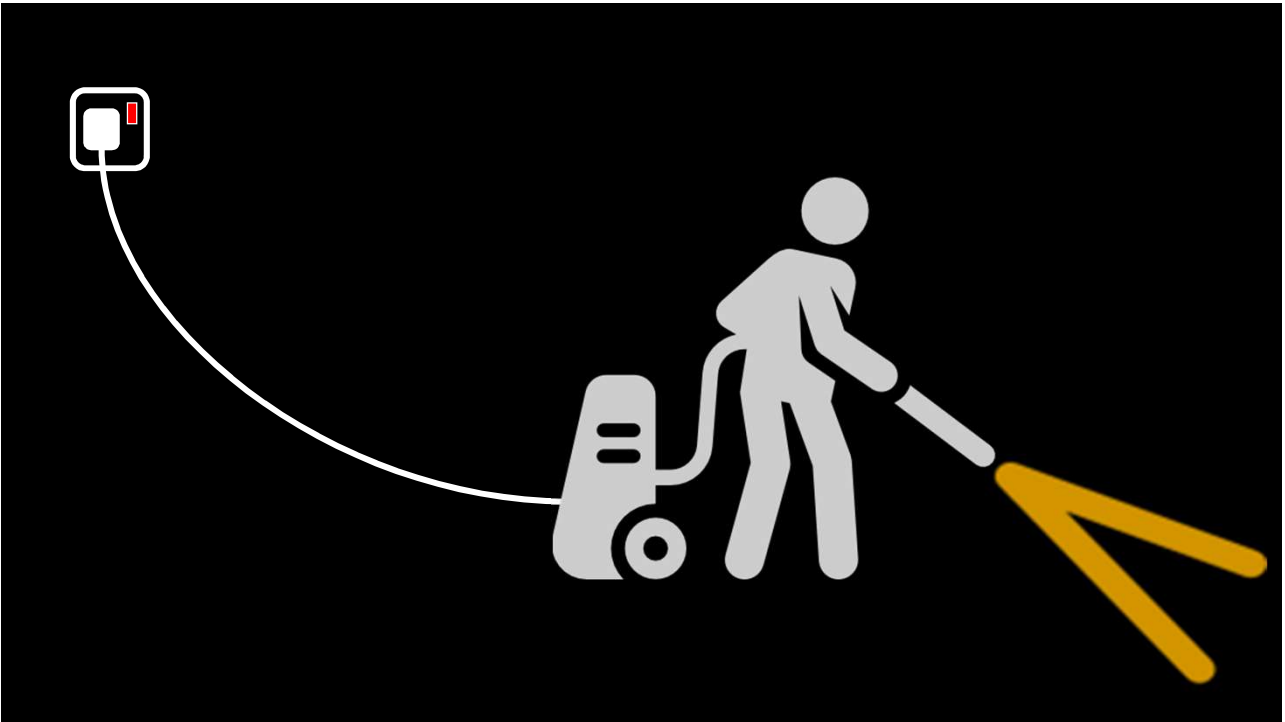
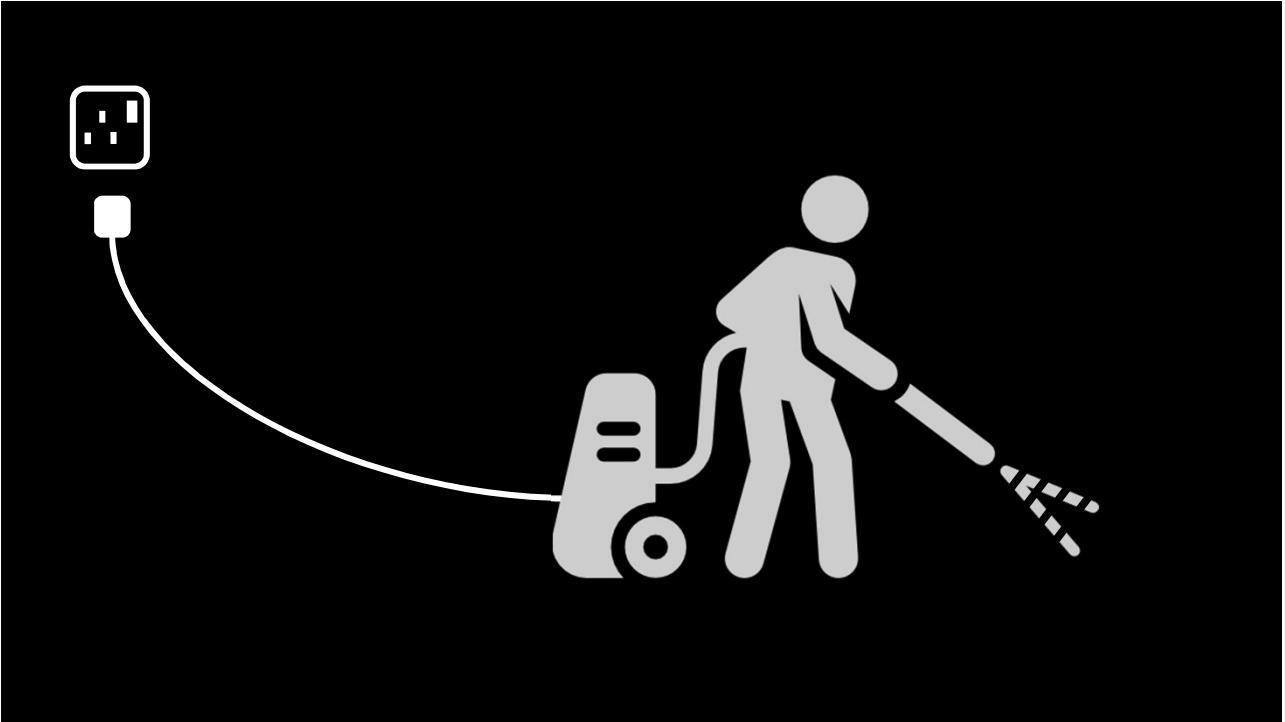
External Crisis + Inner Conviction + God-given momentum = Church Reformation

“When Paul commanded the believers in Ephesus ‘to be filled with the Spirit’ (Eph 5:18), he revealed a terrifying truth: it is possible to be a follower of Jesus Christ and not be living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit whom God has poured out upon his church and who is available to every single Christian believer. ... Sadly, much of the church today fails to realise the riches of the deposit of the Holy Spirit placed within her and within each Christian.” (p34)



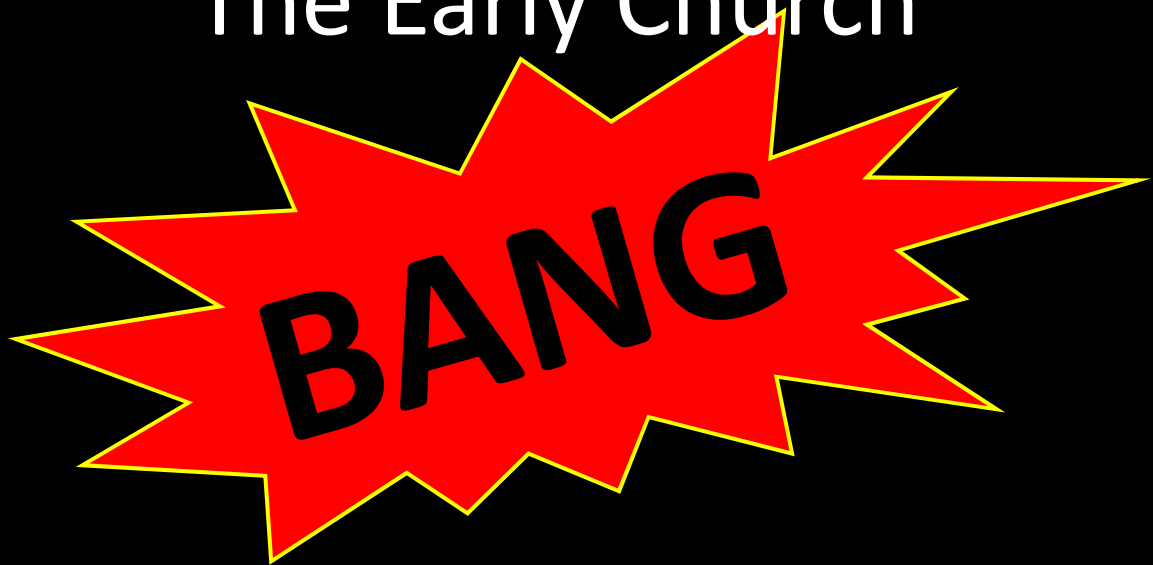
UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH NUMBER 1

**It is possible to live as a
Christian without the
fullness of the Holy Spirit.**



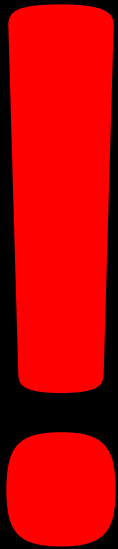
The Early Church

The Early Church



“After that day nothing could stop them. The contrast was night and day. And the Holy Spirit’s presence and power was the mark of the first church. The early church experienced him filling them (Acts 2), healing through them (Acts 3), shaking them (Acts 4), speaking to them (Acts 10:19, 13:1-3) and leading them (Acts 10, 11, 16:6-10). They had no formal or organised New Testament to read and to guide them.

They were following the Spirit-inspired teaching of the apostles and the early Church fathers, and it was the leading of the Holy Spirit that they sought in every circumstance and his power and presence that allowed them to fulfil their mission. The result was that the communities they lived in were transformed: Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus. They were the example of being a minority within their context, bringing the Kingdom of God in the power of the Spirit.” (p35)



UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH NUMBER 2

We are a powerless church

What Stops Us Depending on the Holy Spirit?



Three Barriers

What Stops Us Depending on the Holy Spirit?



Three Barriers

- 1. No One Told Us!**
Lack of knowledge

What Stops Us Depending on the Holy Spirit?



Three Barriers

- 1. No One Told Us!**
Lack of knowledge
- 2. It's all stopped now!**
Bad theology

“You may never have heard of the doctrine of Cessationism, but the churches that you and I are part of live with its effects every day of their lives.” (p39)

“You may never have heard of the doctrine of Cessationism, but the churches that you and I are part of live with its effects every day of their lives.” (p39)



Apostolic Age

Age of the Bible

“Although there are not many people who officially adhere to the theory, many Christians in the UK are functional cessationists. They may not deny God’s ability to give these gifts to people, but they personally have no experience of them and are a long way off from obeying Paul’s instructions to ‘eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit’ (1 Cor 14:1). Cessationism is one of the old garments that God is asking us to throw out in this reformation rummage sale.” (p40)

“The sign that we have put [on the new clothes he is giving us] will be that the presence and leading and work of the Spirit will be central to the life of our churches rather than an optional extra. The New Testament presents no other version of the Church and as we now know that the power of the Spirit and his gifts are available to us, there is no justification for not seeking them and allowing them to shape the life of our churches.” (p40)

What Stops Us Depending on the Holy Spirit?



Three Barriers

1. No One Told Us!

Lack of knowledge

2. It's all stopped now!

Bad theology

3. It's all about us!

Self-reliance

“A church that is determined to preserve its ‘life’ cannot discover the resources flowing from Jesus’ resurrection life. Freedom comes from choosing to stop focusing on numbers and human success and seeking the grace of God and celebrating the signs of what he is doing among us.” (p42)

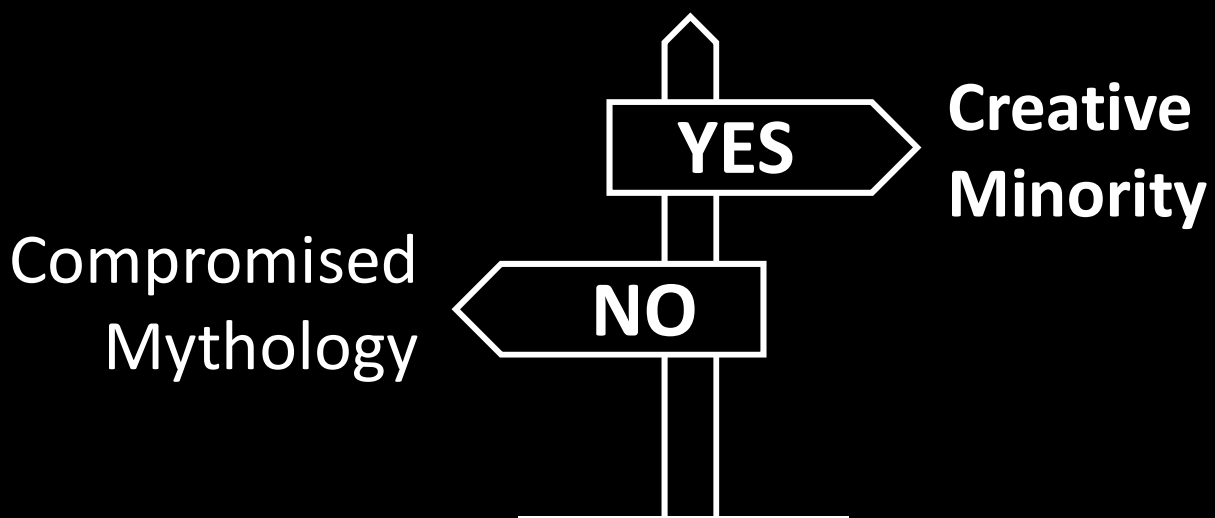
What Stops Us Depending on the Holy Spirit?



Three Barriers

1. **No One Told Us!**
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Self-reliance

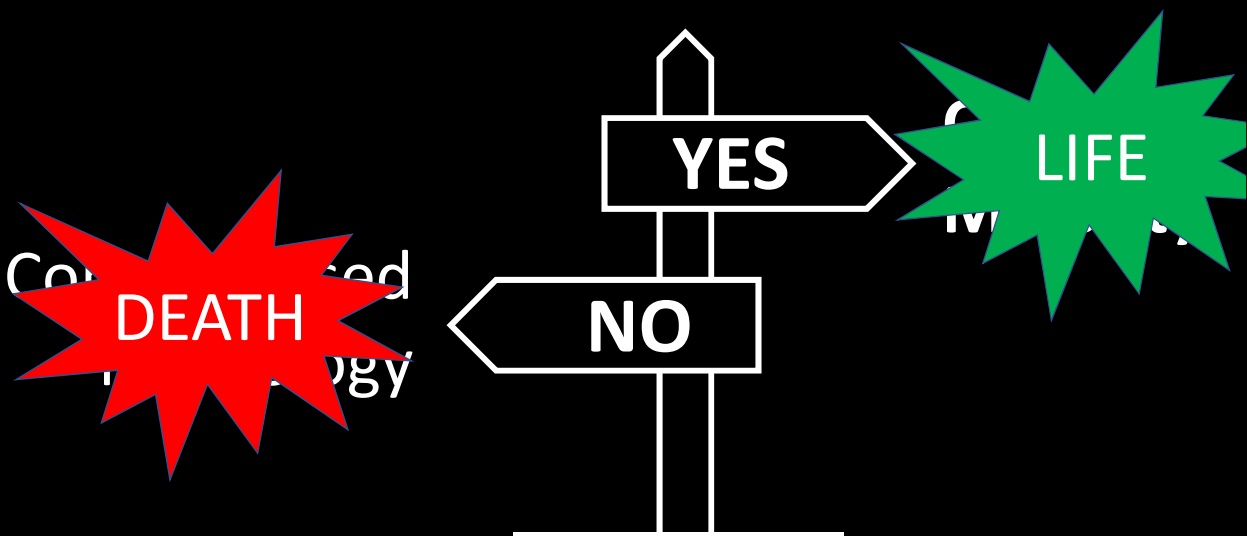
Dependent on the Spirit?



“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”

Revelation 2:4-5

Dependent on the Spirit?



“The restoration of the presence, power and gifts of the Holy Spirit as the source of the Church’s life will mark the church of tomorrow. Why not find some spiritually hungry people you could form a community with, and pray together for the Holy Spirit to fill you and renew you? Ask him to speak and lead you, and pray for God to revive his church.” (p48)

Dependent on the
Holy Spirit