



2004-2005

Making Disciples

**Sermon Outlines:
Easter to Pentecost**

**A Mission 21 Resource of the
International Pentecostal Holiness Church**

Sermon Outlines: Easter Sunday

Notes:

The Living Lord John 20:19-23 Bishop James D. Leggett

Introduction:

- A. The death of Jesus had a devastating effect on the disciples.
 - 1. They were fearful and demoralized.
 - 2. They were discouraged, disappointed, and disillusioned.
 - 3. The future held no promise. Their dreams were dashed.
 - 4. The scene in the upper room was one of despair.
- B. The appearance of the Risen Lord brought a wonderful transformation.
 - 1. He came to minister to their troubled lives.
 - 2. He declared His power over death.
 - 3. He came to move them to another level.
 - 4. He came to mobilize them for mission.
- C. The Risen Lord lives in His church today. (Matthew 18:20; Revelation 2-3).
 - 1. The impact of His first visit on that Sunday night is still felt when the church gathers in His name.
 - 2. We rejoice in the incredibility of the incarnation, the centrality of the cross, and the reality of the resurrection.
 - 3. When Jesus comes, He brings rich blessings to His people.

I. The Living Lord Brings His Presence

- A. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. His presence gave them joy and happiness.
- B. Jesus has promised to be in our midst (Matthew 18:20).
- C. He will be with us until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).
- D. No wonder the writer of Hebrews quotes Christ as saying, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

II. The Living Lord Brings Peace

- A. Twice Jesus said "Peace be unto you."
- B. He deals with our fears, and develops our faith.
- C. The peace is based upon His death for them, for He showed them His hands and side (the first illustrated sermon).
- D. His death revealed the depth of His love and sacrifice for their salvation.
 - 1. Max Lucado: "Jesus is crazy about you."
 - 2. Wesley: "Amazing love, how can it be that thou, my God, should die for me?"
- E. The New Testament speaks of the marvelous peace which Christ gives.

Sermon Outlines: Easter Sunday

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III. The Living Lord Brings Purpose

- A. The disciples thought everything was over, but Christ commissions them.
- B. Listen to those fantastic words: "As my Father hath sent me, I send you."
- C. He calls us to join Him to complete His mission in this world.
- D. Every believer is "sent" by Jesus as His ambassador.

IV. The Living Lord Brings Power

- A. The task is too much for any of us. How did Jesus expect us to accomplish His mission?
- B. He breathed on them and said, "Receive you the Holy Spirit." It was a prophetic breathing fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.
- C. Jesus empowered them with the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. "Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit" (Zechariah 4:6).
 - 2. "Ye shall receive power" (Acts 1:8).
 - 3. The Holy Spirit takes the apostrophe and the "t" out of "can't."
- D. We can accomplish His mission by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

The transformation by the appearance of the risen Lord is startling and amazing. The defeated, fearful, hopeless disciples were totally changed by the visit of Jesus on that Sunday. They would never be the same. They would wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit and then hit the streets of Jerusalem and turn the Roman and Jewish world upside down. Look at the story of Acts and you can see the tremendous impact of the risen Lord in His church.

Jesus still makes visits on Sundays or anytime anywhere His people meet. He still comes to where we are to move us to another level, to give peace for perplexity, gladness for gloom, purpose in our confusion, and power for our weakness. We serve a Risen Savior and He is present this day in the midst of His people.

Whatever your need this day, Jesus Christ is present to minister to you and transform your life.

Newness of the Spirit

Rev. M. Donald Duncan

I. First Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

- A. Made with forefathers at Sinai (v. 32).
- B. Governed by law.
- C. Ritual observances (blood of sacrificial animals).
- D. Outward form of religion - individuals were not personally responsible.
- E. Based on knowledge - people were left in their sin.
- F. Breaking the first covenant prepared the world for Christ (vv. 33-34).

II. New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

- A. Prophesied by Jeremiah in the Old Testament (v. 31).
- B. Prophecy of the "new covenant" was to be fulfilled at a later time.
- C. Brought new spiritual dimension (vv. 33-34).
 - 1. Religion will be inward - not merely external.
 - 2. Laws are written in the heart - not on stone.
 - 3. God will deal with inner principles - not outward symptoms.
 - 4. Men will respond from inward motivation - not outward forms of compulsion
- D. New Relationship (v. 34)
 - 1. "They shall know me" - relationship with God will be intimate and personal.
 - 2. Relationship will be spiritual - not formal.
- E. New level of morality.
 - 1. Based on a personal knowledge of God.
 - 2. Based on spiritual laws written in the heart.

III. New Spirit (Ezekiel 11:17-20)

- A. Similar prophecy to Jeremiah - to be fulfilled at a later time in history.
- B. God promised to return a remnant of Israel (v. 17).
 - 1. "One Heart" (v. 19) - motivated by God's will.
Later granted to the early church. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul" (Acts 4:32).
 - 2. "New spirit" (v. 19)
 - a. Remnant would exchange spirit of murmuring for the spirit of praise.
 - b. Took Christ to establish the "new spirit" within men.
 - 3. "Heart of Flesh" (vv.19-20)
 - a. Took away their rebellious spirit.
 - b. Replaced with a desire to walk in His statutes and keep His ordinances.

Sermon Outlines: First Sunday After Easter

Notes:

IV. Empowerment of Disciples (John 20:19-23)

- A. Fulfillment of the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
- B. On the day of the Resurrection, Christ commissioned the disciples to carry out His mission - "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (v. 21).
- C. Christ empowered the disciples to carry out the commission of Christ - "He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (v. 22).
- D. This empowerment was called the "quickening" spirit and was preparatory for the mission. The Pentecostal advent brought the "endowing" spirit.
- E. This was the beginning of the supernatural life which makes Christian consciousness unique.

V. Newness in Him through Baptism (Romans 6:1-11)

- A. Through the Resurrection we have a real union in Christ.
- B. Through the Resurrection we are buried with him by baptism into death so as He was raised from the dead, we should also walk in newness of life (v. 4).
- C. Significance of Baptism
 1. Altered life - "dead and buried" former feelings and behavior.
 2. Complete fellowship with Christ:
 - a. Completely surrendered to the claims of the Son of God.
 - b. Share in Christ's hostility to evil.
 - c. Rejoice in the conquest over death and the grave.
 - d. Rejoice in the conquest over the adversary of mankind.
 - e. Symbolizes entire dedication to the Master's service.
 3. Characteristics of the New Life
 - a. Christ is our example and companion.
 - b. An active life - not self absorbed.
 - c. No more sin to exert influence.
 - d. Not limited by material barriers.
 - e. Endowed with full authority from on high.
 - f. Peace and joy.
 - g. Triumphs in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit: “God’s Change Agent”

Dr. Ronald Carpenter

Text: “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” - II Corinthians 3:18 (KJV).

- I. **Change-agents are always necessary to transition a person or entity from one status to another.**
 - A. Transition requires change and change always involves movement from the known to the unknown. The known represents security; the unknown represents insecurity.
 - B. Since people are basically afraid of the unknown, they tend to fear change. Therefore, God sends “change-agents” to lead his people forward in spite of their fears and insecurities.
 - C. The Holy Spirit has many names throughout the Bible (ie. Spirit of Wisdom - Exodus 28:3; Spirit like a dove - Mark 1:10; Holy Spirit of promise - Ephesians 1:13; Spirit of God who seals us - Ephesians 4:30; etc.) but in II Corinthians 3:18, He is referred to as the “spirit of change.”

- II. **The text of II Corinthians 3:18 is found in the context of verses 7-18.** Here we are told that Moses covered his face with a veil in order that the children of Israel not see his face which glowed with the glory of the Lord which he had received during his forty days of solitude with Jehovah on Mount Sinai. However, the veil was not worn to keep the children of Israel from beholding the glory but rather from seeing the glory as it faded away from Moses’ face (vv. 7, 13).
 - A. Paul reminds us that the glory of the new covenant increases rather than decreases like that of Moses. This occurs as we behold the glory of the Lord and are changed into the same image by the Spirit of the Lord.
 - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to mature us in our character and in our relationship with God by making the necessary changes in our character and lifestyle.

- III. **In Malachi 3:6, Jehovah declares that “I am the Lord; I change not.”** God does not have to change because He is perfect in Himself. His changelessness (immutability) is the basis upon which His faithfulness is extended to us (vv. 6-7).
 - A. However, men are obviously not perfect, therefore, we could never say, “I change not.” It is not a compliment for someone to say, “I haven’t changed in 10 years.” People who have not changed in the last ten years have also failed to mature in their faith.
 - B. Every believer is “under construction” and mature Christians must give new believers the necessary time to mature and be changed by the Spirit.

Sermon Outlines: Second Sunday After

Notes:

- IV. **The work of the Holy Spirit in the believer is to cleanse and empower.**
- A. He comes to cleanse:
 - 1. Psalm 51:10-11; Matthew 3:11-12; Romans 6; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:11; 9:19; I Peter 1:2
 - 2. He is involved in the entire process of sanctification, (ie. conviction, regeneration, sanctification as a definite experience and as a process flowing out of the experience; and in glorification).
 - 3. The ultimate goal of the Spirit's cleansing power in our life is to reproduce in us the beauty and character of the Fruit of the Spirit which is the character of Jesus (Galatians 5).
 - B. He comes to empower:
 - 1. Acts 1:8; 2:1-41; I Corinthians 2:1-5
 - 2. The gifts of the Spirit, both manifestation and ministry, are divine enablements operated by the Holy Spirit in and through us as a demonstration of His power.
 - 3. Holy Ghost power must be housed in and exercised through holy vessels.
 - C. Both of these ministries of the Spirit involve changing us:
 - 1. From unclean to clean, from unholy to holy
 - 2. From weak to powerful, from cowardly to courageous
- V. **The cleansing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is "true holiness."**
- A. Holiness is not a focus upon externals but the internal condition of the heart. Holiness is not a manual but a very intimate relationship with the God-man, Jesus Christ.
 - B. If externals were the mark of true holiness, the Pharisees would have been the holiest people on earth. They kept the laws of the Jewish religion diligently (Luke 11:38-54).
 - C. Pharisees were circumcised physically according to the law but did not have a heart that recognized Jesus when he came. They had the external sign of holiness but not the internal work of holiness (Acts 7: 51 - uncircumcised in heart).
 - D. The true circumcision of the heart is wrought by the Spirit.
 - 1. Romans 2 - heart (inward person) is circumcised
 - 2. Philippians 3:1-3 - spiritual circumcision means:
 - a. Worship God in the spirit
 - b. Rejoice in Christ Jesus
 - c. Have no confidence in the flesh
- VI. **It is only as we are changed by the Holy Spirit that our lives can truly become the offering and sacrifice to God that He so intensely desires (Romans 15:15-17).**

God Wants YOU in His Service!

Text: Acts 6:1-8

Dr. Douglas Beacham, Jr.

Introduction

When he was 23 years old, John Wesley began to read Bishop Taylor's "Rules and Exercises of Holy Living and Dying." The book powerfully affected the young Wesley who wrote, "Instantly I resolved to dedicate all my life to God, all my thoughts, and words, and actions."

When God calls YOU into His service, it's for purposes greater than we will ever know. To do this requires several aspects of the Holy Spirit operating fully in our lives.

- I. **You need Spirit Wisdom in your life.** Throughout the Bible, life in the Spirit is characterized by wisdom (James 1:5; 3:14-17).

Illustration: During the Spanish-American War (1898), some transports with supplies for General Shafter's army found it impossible to secure anchorage off the coast of Cuba, and were compelled to steam slowly back and forth along the coast. This made it difficult to land the horses and mules, and it was finally decided upon to push them overboard and allow them to swim ashore. So, they were pushed into the water and soon the sea was black with animals. Some instinctively swam toward the shore; others completed circles in the water; but others, more frightened than the rest, started out to sea. It was a distressing situation, and the ship's officers showed much concern. Finally, the men who were aboard the transports espied a soldier on shore hastily making his way toward a rocky promontory. The stripes upon his uniform denoted the bugler. The jutting rocks reached, he raised the bugle to his lips and emitted one after another of the bugle-calls which the army horses and mules had learned to know so well. The sound traveled far out to sea, and was heard by every bewildered, struggling creature. Instinctively, they turned and swam toward the call. The bugler stood there and sounded those calls until his lips were blue, but when he finally did cease, every confused and trembling animal was safe! (Source: 1000 Illustrations).

The Bible gives us three clear sounding "trumpet calls" that help us understand the polar extremes described by the apostle James.

- A. Acts 6:1-8, reveals a situation that threatened to turn the new Christian community, based on love, into the well-rehearsed litanies of ethnic and social discrimination and discord. While the mistreatment was not intentional, it revealed a fault-line that the Holy Spirit wanted fixed. The Holy Spirit had the best idea: pick out leaders filled with the Spirit and wisdom who would be led by the Spirit to solve this in a liberating fashion.
- B. Genesis 41:38, 39 tells of Joseph who was recognized by Pharaoh as a man filled with the Spirit of God and wisdom. The Holy Spirit used a man who had suffered injustice by his family and others, yet who did not allow bitterness to control him.

Sermon Outlines: Third Sunday After Easter

Notes:

C. Exodus 31:3 describes a gifted artisan named Bezalel. His name means “under the shadow of the Lord.” That’s another way of saying he lived his life in the Lord’s protection, covered by the Lord’s grace. The wisdom and skills he received through the Holy Spirit enabled him to lead in the construction of the Wilderness Wandering Tabernacle.

II. **The Holy Spirit Speaks to Us Today.** While the Bible remains our unchanging authority, God speaks through prophecy that applies His Word to our immediate situations (Joel 2:28, Acts 2).

A. Acts 21:9 refers to the four daughters of Philip “who prophesied.” Two things are important to note:

1. This demonstrates fulfillment of prophecy that women will be used by God as His spokespersons.
2. Early Christian families encouraged and nurtured the manifestations of this gift in their children.

B. Numbers 11:25-29 describes how the Spirit of prophecy came upon the seventy elders chosen to help Moses.

C. 2 Chronicles 20:14-22 shows the prophet Jahaziel bringing encouragement to Judah in a time of crisis.

III. **The Holy Spirit calls forth men and women who lead God’s people to victory.** The Holy Spirit uses individuals to shape the course of larger groups of people. The following stand out as we examine David’s anointing in 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

A. David did not anoint himself (1 Sam 16:1-4, 13). Our call requires confirmation from other servants of God.

B. David was faithful where he served (1 Sam 16:11). The person who resents the little opportunities will not be given greater opportunities.

C. God saw David’s heart (1 Sam 16:7, 12).

Conclusion

Samuel Chadwick tells the story of encountering the village blacksmith when he was a young boy. The blacksmith would place a piece of iron in the hot fire. He’d pump that bellows to get the temperature up, and then he’d take that white hot metal, place it on the anvil and what he did next always astounded young Samuel Chadwick. The blacksmith would then take a very small hammer and hit that white iron, and as soon as he did, his huge assistant would come down with a thunderous blow on the very same spot. And again, the smitty would tap the iron with his hammer, and the big bruiser would strike a mighty blow at the same sight. Well, Chadwick remembers, as a little boy, laughing at the blacksmith and saying, “You sure don’t do much with that hammer of yours, do you?” The blacksmith grinned and said, “No, son, but I show that big fellow where to hit.”

That’s how God works in our lives. With confidence we can know that our “little taps” of obedience are setting the stage for the Hand of God, the Holy Spirit, to strike with power!

The Holy Spirit At Work In The Believer's Life

Rev. Edward Wood

Introduction

J. Oswald Sanders says in his book, *The Holy Spirit of Promise*, "The ministry of the Spirit is Christo-centric. Just as the work of the telescope is to reveal, not itself, but the glories which it brings within the range of vision, so the congenial ministry of the Holy Spirit is to stand behind the scenes and reveal Christ to those who are united to Him by faith."

From the day a person accepts Christ into his/her heart, the Holy Spirit is working to make us more like Christ.

It is through the work of the Spirit that we have life, truth is revealed to us and we become fruit-bearing Christians.

I. The Spirit's Power to Give Life

John 6:63, "The Holy Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life" (NIV). This was Jesus' explanation to His Disciples following a discourse He had with the Jews who did not understand His teaching that made a distinction between what has earthly value and eternal value.

Galatians 6:7-8 "Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others - ignoring God! - harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life" (The Message).

Romans 8, The entire chapter emphasizes the fact that the Spirit sets a person free from the law of sin and gives true freedom.

v.1 - No condemnation

v.16 - Spirit confirms that we are children of God

v. 25 - When we pray, the Spirit makes intercession for us

2 Corinthians 3:6, the letter of the law kills but the Spirit gives life. "The plan wasn't written out with ink on paper, with pages and pages of legal footnotes, killing your spirit. It's written with Spirit on spirit, his life on our lives" (The Message).

II. The Spirit's Power to Reveal Truth

What is truth? This is the question philosophers have sought to answer through the ages. Through human reasoning, they have come up with many strange answers.

Sermon Outlines: Fourth Sunday After

Notes:

The Bible is very clear concerning truth: 1 John 5:6 "The Spirit is truth."

John 14:16-17, Jesus declared the Holy Spirit to be "the truth." The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus to be with His followers. He would be their comforter.

In a world filled with thousands of man-made ideas concerning God, it is great to have the Holy Spirit who will guide us into all truth.

III. Power to Establish the Fruit of The Spirit in Our Lives

Galatians 5:19-21 is a description of the fruit of evil.

- A. The evil fruit is the result of following the "flesh desires."
- B. The lust of the flesh is a result of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.
- C. There is only one way to break out of the evil garden and that is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit produces awesome fruit that cannot be produced without the Holy Spirit. There is no counterfeit for the fruit of the Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit creates a tremendous atmosphere:

- In the home,
- In the church,
- In the work place.

Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruit" (Matthew 7:16-20).

John M. Drescher, in his book, *Spirit Fruit*, references Gordon Glegg and makes the following statement: "Gordon Glegg, in his book, *A Scientist and His Faith*, tells of the opening of an exhibition in England by the Queen. When all was in readiness, the Queen declared the exhibition open and made a tour of the various presentations. She found one exhibitor slouched in his chair, sound asleep. Glegg writes: 'There was a moment of consternation while everyone watched to see what the Queen would do. She paused a moment, and then, with a smile, passed on to the next exhibit, for Royalty does not force itself on anyone.' How like the Holy Spirit! Tender and sensitive, He enters where invited and does not intrude uninvited. He awaits our welcome. Only as we yield to the Holy Spirit is fruit produced. The Holy Spirit wants to make our lives Christlike but we must respond, He will not do His good and gracious work against our will."

Conclusion

Before a person accepts Christ, the Spirit is at work drawing the person to Christ. After receiving Christ into one's heart, the Holy Spirit is active in every phase of the new life. He is with us constantly. He is there in good times and bad times revealing to us truth and producing the fruit of the spirit in our life so we can be Christ-like. Just as we followed the Spirit when He led us to Christ, we must follow His leading each day.

“Short-circuiting” the Spirit

Romans 8:11-14

Rev. Jewelle Stewart

Introduction

The story is told of a massive blackout that occurred a few years ago in a major city. After many hours' searching, engineers found the culprit. It was a small rodent that had crawled through a tiny opening and maneuvered to a critical spot where, at the moment of contact, his body created a break in the flow of power and short-circuited the system. That small creature not only lost its life, but also caused a major power outage that affected thousands.

One seemingly insignificant action can bring about serious consequences, whether it is a small, insignificant rodent or a small, to our thinking, insignificant response to God's Holy Spirit.

Today's culture makes light of that which is sacred and holy. Jesus spent his public ministry teaching his disciples how to live in and minister to an unregenerate and perverse society - not too unlike ours. He pointed them to God's agenda and away from traditional religious activity, challenging them to move into the new dimension of being led by the Spirit, something that was not familiar or comfortable. Would they embrace the Spirit He would send, or would they turn away?

That is still the important question. Our response to the Holy Spirit's leading may, at times, seem unimportant but, just like a small creature can cause a major blackout, every response to the Holy Spirit's leading as an individual and as a corporate body, has life and death consequences. The scripture repeatedly warns that we not sin against the Holy Spirit. Let's consider why our every response to the Holy Spirit should be given careful consideration:

I. The Holy Spirit IS God

Ephesians 4:4-6 (See also John 4:24, 2 Corinthians 3:3, 1 John 5:7)

The Bible teaches there is one God who is three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - one divine essence eternally subsisting as three persons. These three are equal and possess the same divine attributes. There are not three Gods, but the three persons of the One Godhead. Each has their office and their workings are revealed through the scriptures. The Father sends and works through the Son. The Father and Son send and work through the Spirit. Therefore, the One who indwells believers IS the Holy Spirit - not some impersonal force or power, but Very God in His fullness.

II. The Holy Spirit is Personal

A. He has infinite intellect (1 Corinthians 2:11; Romans 11:33)

B. He has a will (1 Corinthians 12:11; Hebrews 2:4)

Sermon Outlines: Fifth Sunday After Easter

Notes:

- C. He teaches (Luke 12:11-12; I Corinthians 2:13)
- D. He loves (Romans 15:30)
- E. He can be sinned against - insulted (Hebrews 10:29), lied to (Acts 5:3), and resisted (Acts 7:51) - actions that meet with acceptance in today's culture.

III. The Holy Spirit is God's Presence on earth today

- A. He knows the thoughts of God (I Corinthians 2:10-12)
- B. He is the enabler (Philippians 2:13; Galatians 5:16; I Corinthians 1:8)
- C. He speaks to people and through people (Acts 1:15-16; 8:29; 10:19-20; Matthew 10:17-20; Romans 15:17)
- D. He exerts authority (Colossians 2:9-10; Acts 13:1-4; 20:22; 20:28a)

IV. How will we respond?

Staying open to or "short-circuiting" the Spirit is determined by our choices. "What will you do with the Holy Spirit?" is answered daily through our responses to the still, small voice saying "this is the way, walk ye in it." Our response as a fellowship of believers to God's agenda for this hour is critical. What we do will either shut Him out or keep His Spirit flowing in our lives and in the church. Will we have the heart of an obedient child (disciple), or one who resists and sins against Him?

(Briefly explain terms)

- A. Rebellion (Psalm 106:35) or Obedience (Romans 8:9-11; Galatians 6:7-8)
- B. Grieving (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30-31) or Pleasing God (Ephesians 4:32 - 5:10)
- C. Quenching (I Thessalonians 5:19) or Ever-Increasing (II Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV)
- D. Blaspheming (Mark 3:28,29) or Worshipping (John 4:23,24; Romans 12:1,2 NIV)

Conclusion

God's Word clearly warns that sin against the Holy Spirit has severe consequences. We must be careful not to "short-circuit" or break the flow of His power working in and through us. He cannot be compartmentalized and brought out when it is thought to be more convenient. We must regularly search our hearts. Have we been guilty of resisting, rebelling, grieving, or quenching the work of the Spirit in any way? Are we open to and embracing what God desires for this hour? Have we moved from part-time worshippers to a lifestyle of worship?

If there has been any form of sin against the Holy Spirit of God, the only acceptable response is to repent and reconnect with Him. The flow of God's Spirit in us (staying sensitive to and responsive to the Spirit of God) will bring an increase of the abundant life He promised - revival, renewal - where prayers are unhindered and miracles abound. Church, let's not short-circuit anything He has for us!

The Presence and Work of the Spirit in Relation to Jesus Christ

Rev. Jack Kelley

The Holy Spirit in the Daily Life of the Believer

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:4-11

I. Betrothed as the Bride of Christ (John 14:1-3; Ephesians 1:3-4, 13-14)

A. The Shitre Erusin (John 14:1-3)

Ancient Jews had a specific contract that officially began an engagement period, or betrothal, prior to a marriage. Called the Shitre Erusin, this agreement was signed by both the bride and groom at an intimate ceremony performed by an official from the local synagogue.

This was a legal contract, requiring full divorce proceedings to break. If the future husband died before the wedding, the woman still received the full inheritance agreed upon. One point stated that the groom would return to his father's house and prepare rooms where the newlywed couple would live after the wedding. The words Jesus spoke in John 14:1-3 would have immediately brought visual images to the disciples' minds. They, and all followers of Jesus since, make up the betrothed bride of Christ. The rooms He is preparing at His Father's house are many, and when completed, He will return for His bride. The Bible is the contract. It tells how much we are loved as the bride. It tells us of our inheritance. It promises us that Christ will come again for us and take us to be His bride forever in heaven.

B. The Riches Promised the Bride (Ephesians 1:3-4)

At the betrothal ceremony gifts are given. We, the church, have been given great spiritual blessings to enjoy now while we wait for our groom to return. We were chosen as the bride before the creation as the perfect bride for God's Son.

C. The Symbol of the Engagement-The Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)

The Holy Spirit is the "deposit guaranteeing our inheritance." It is the one thing that shows we are engaged to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a deposit on the greater inheritance to be ours in heaven. The Holy Spirit is our "engagement ring." He is our symbol to the world that we belong to Christ.

II. The Spirit Indwells the Character of Christ to the Betrothed Bride

(Isaiah 11:2; 42:1)

A. Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2)

Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that rested on Jesus are now ours because of the Holy Spirit in us: rest, wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. The Spirit that rested on Jesus now rests on us.

Sermon Outlines: Sixth Sunday After Easter

Notes:

- B. The Father Delights in His Son's Chosen Bride (Isaiah 42:1)
Just as the Father delights in His Son, He also delights in the bride who is betrothed to the Son-because we have the Son's Spirit in us.

III. The Bride's Occupation During the Betrothal (Isaiah 61:1)

- A. The Spirit Anoints the Bride for Service (Isaiah 61:1) Just as the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus to minister, He does the same for us, the church. We are anointed to preach good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, free captives from prison, and release prisoners from darkness. The bride does not sit idle waiting for the groom to return, but occupies herself doing what her groom asks.
- B. The Bride Proclaims Justice to the Nations (Matthew 12:18)
God has chosen to do His work on earth through the bride - the Church. That work is accomplished only by the Holy Spirit operating in the Bride. Throughout the Messianic Age, the bride - representing her beloved groom Jesus - brings justice and order to society. All of history since Jesus shows the power of the Christian message to bring order, stability, and law to nations.

IV. The Bride's Resources for Successful Living (Luke 3:22, 23; 4:1, 4; 10:21)

- A. Spiritual Resources (Luke 4:1)
Just as Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, the bride is also tempted. She, the church, has the same resources available to her that He had: prayer (Luke 3:22), the father's love (Luke 3:23), the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1), and the Word of God (Luke 4:4).
- B. Revelation through the Spirit (Luke 10:21)
The Spirit reveals to us, the bride, hidden truths - truths that are unavailable even to the wise and learned. This revelation equips the Bride to live successfully and watch for Satan's snares (Luke 10:17-20)

V. The Bride Lives a Life Worthy of Her Calling (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Because of being chosen by her groom, the Lord, the bride...the church, lives to please her betrothed. She does nothing to disappoint him, but does everything to live a life worthy of her calling. During the time of her betrothal she matures from a young girl into a beautiful mature woman ready for marriage. She makes her body beautiful, protects her mind, and generally prepares herself for the upcoming wedding.

This is our call, the mission of the church, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The disciples obeyed! Will we? Jesus is coming again.

Pentecost: Explosive Beginnings

Acts 11:15

Bishop James D. Leggett

Introduction

- A. The Pentecostal outpouring in Acts is the powerful, explosive beginning of the church and its ministries to fulfill the great commission.
- B. Peter refers to it as a beginning, for the powerful forces set loose that day birthed multiple ministries (Acts 11:15).
- C. Joel prophesied of the new beginnings: "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your old men shall dream dreams and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28).
- D. Whenever the Holy Spirit is poured out, He unleashes freshness and power for new explosive and expanding ministries.

I. Pentecost Created a Community of Disciples

- A. Acts 2:42-47 is often referred to as the first church: a true community of disciples.
- B. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.
- C. They enjoyed the fellowship of the brethren.
- D. They were continually praising the name of the Lord.
- E. They prayed together with powerful results.
- F. They were unceasing in teaching and preaching Jesus (Acts 5:42).

II. Pentecost Birthed Supernatural Ministry

- A. The Holy Spirit began working through the apostles with signs and wonders (Acts 2:43, 5:12).
- B. The apostles prayed for God to "stretch out your hands to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of...Jesus" (Acts 4:30).
- C. There is one miracle on top of another: lame man leaping, prison doors are flung wide open, the dead are raised to life, etc.
- D. Pentecost creates the miraculous in the church.

III. Pentecost Inaugurated Cross-cultural Ministry

- A. The Holy Spirit breaks barriers and includes all in the fellowship of faith.
- B. The first church had Hebraic Jews and Grecian Jews.
- C. The disciples followed Jesus into Samaria.
- D. Peter opens the doors to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius.
- E. The leadership of the church was inclusive in Antioch (Acts 13:1).

IV. Pentecost Started Lay Ministry

- A. The prophecy of Joel promised the blessing to all flesh.
- B. The entire church seemed anointed to spread the message of Jesus.
- C. Deacons became powerful witnesses of the gospel.

Sermon Outlines: Pentecost Sunday

Notes:

- D. The first missionaries were lay people. Those who were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4).
- E. The Holy Spirit anoints and releases lay people for powerful ministry.
- F. Pentecost propels the church to the world.

V. The Holy Spirit Began World Missions

- A. Antioch became the launching pad for the missionary journeys of Paul and his companions (Acts 13:1-3).
- B. The Holy Spirit moves the church to evangelize the world.
- C. The entire second half of Acts is filled with the great missionary endeavors in the history of the world.
- D. When Pentecost fell at Azusa Street, it was the beginning of a mighty missionary movement that covered the entire earth.

VI. The Holy Spirit Empowers for Home Missions

- A. The disciples obeyed Christ and began witnessing in Jerusalem.
- B. They spread His name throughout the city and the surrounding areas (Acts 5:16, 28).
- C. The number of disciples was multiplied in Jerusalem (Acts 6:7) and in Judea, Galilee and Samaria (Acts 9:31).
- D. The authorities testified to the disciples' effectiveness: "You have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine" (Acts 5:28).

Conclusion

Too many people see Pentecost as a terminus, the end. Some even see Pentecost in Acts as a one-time event in the history of the church. Pentecost is not just history. It was repeated in the book of Acts, and through the centuries the Holy Spirit has been poured out on the church.

What we need today is a fresh outpouring of the Spirit upon the church. Every spiritual outpouring creates a new beginning. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the ministry of our Lord in the earth today.