

SERMON: WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.

Acts 2:1-8

(1) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (5) And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. (6) Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. (7) And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? (8) And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Introduction

Jesus told his disciples it was advantageous for Him to leave them. His departure would allow the Holy Spirit to come to earth in a permanent way. He instructed the apostles to shelter in place in Jerusalem until they would be endued with power from on high. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit came in a mighty way. Just as the star of Bethlehem and the heavenly host were the inaugural symbols of the birth of Jesus, the fire and the wind were inaugural symbols of the arrival of the Third Person of the Trinity. Sometimes we forget Pentecost was one of the annual festivals of Judaism observed since the entry into the Promised Land. This one was different because of the Holy Spirit. The Pentecost recorded in Acts, chapter two, is to the Holy Spirit what Christmas is to Jesus. This feast was observed fifty days after the Passover. It was also known as the Feast of Harvest, the Feast of Weeks, and the Day of First Fruits. It was designed to give God the first of the agricultural year. In essence, it was a tangible demonstration of putting God first and thanking Him for all of His blessings. The Spirit came in full power on the day they were bringing an offering. That's something to think about. There are many blessings from the Holy Spirit. Dr. H. L. Willmington lists fifty-seven ministries or operations of the Holy Spirit. I am only going to list seven in this sermon. (I know you are glad of that!) In this day of uncertainty, anxiety, and loss of civility we need the operation of the Holy Spirit now, maybe, more than ever.

Exposition

1. He Empowers the Saint to Communicate the Good News.
(This Is What Happened At Pentecost.)
(He Provides The Power To Witness.)
(He Provides The Right Words For The Right Times.)

(Everybody Present Heard Them In The Native Language.)

2. He Translates Our Misstatements When We Pray.
(Sometimes We Don't Know What To Pray For.)
(Romans 8:26-27)
3. He Seals and Affirms Our Salvation.
(This is really important!)
(Romans 8:16; 2nd Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13 Ephesians 4:30)
4. He Instructs Us and Guides Us through Revelation.
(John 16:13; Romans 8:14)
5. He Corrects Us When We Are Wrong.
(John 16:8)
6. He Brings To Remembrance What We Have Been Taught.
(John 14:26)
7. He Comforts the Christian and Gives Us Joy.
(Romans 14:17)

Closing Thoughts

I will close with the words of the late Mother Cora Kimble, who was a member of the St. James Baptist Church of Gulfport, Mississippi. "Thank God for the Holy Ghost. Thank God for the Holy Ghost. He put a little fire in my heart, ever since I made my new start. Thank God for the Holy Ghost. Be sure you got Him! Be sure you got Him!"

Related Scripture

Acts 2:1-47

End Notes

1. In John 16:7 the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Comforter. The actual Greek is *paraclete*. The word comes from two simple words: para, which means "alongside" and *kaleo*, which means to "call" or to "summon." There were two uses. It could refer to a caregiver such as a nurse or it could refer to a lawyer who would be by your side to represent you in court. Either way, the individual would provide comfort.
2. Many theologians say the church was conceived by Jesus in Caesarea of Philippi and she was birthed on the Day of the New Testament Pentecost by the Holy Spirit. Please read Matthew 16:13-18.

3. Many theologians say the Day of the New Testament Pentecost was a divine reversal of the confusion during the building of the Tower of Babel. Please read Genesis 11:1-9.

4. John 14:26 alludes to a custom common in the Greco-Roman empire for orators and actors in the theater. It was acceptable to have prompters in the background. If the speaker had a lapse of memory and was at a loss of what to say next and might say the wrong thing, the prompter would whisper a catchword or the beginning of his next line. For actors the prompter was there for rehearsal and for the actual performance. The prompter would even remind the actors of when to enter and to exit the stage. So on the stage of life, if we forget our parts and can't remember what Christ told us through His Word, the Holy Spirit, the Prompter will whisper the correct parts. Let's be ready to hear His voice.

5. It is a great thing to quote Joel 2:28-29. This, however, was not the first promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul lets the cat out of the bag. This promise was originally made to Abraham for all of his believing posterity, whether Jew or Gentile. Please read Galatians 3:14.

Copyright © 2020 BY James C. Ward
All rights reserved