

# By Love Set Free

MARCH 30/31, 2019

## **FREEDOM IN AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

ACTS 2:14-24; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-20  
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The freedom of living in the age of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32), Acts 2:14-24.

- God, by the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and resurrection, has made possible a new age of disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ who are indwelt and powered by the Holy Spirit for building this eternal family of God, the church for His Son, vv. 16-17, 22-24.
- The Holy Spirit will inhabit and empower all disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ living by faith, vv. 17-18.
  - The Holy Spirit will fall on each regardless of nationality, gender, age, or economic level of life, vv. 17-18.
  - The ministry of the Holy Spirit will enable disciples to hear from God, to understand the Word of God, and to proclaim it with authority to others, vv. 17-18.

The age of the Holy Spirit will end with God bringing judgment on the nations, vv. 19-21.

The freedom by the Holy Spirit of building and extending the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:1-20.

- Spiritual discernment must be used as there are many spirits in the world. The Holy Spirit is recognized as the Spirit of Truth revealed in God's Word, vv. 1-3.
- Every disciple of the Holy Spirit has been given special spiritual ability (gifts) for building and extending the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, the family of God, vv. 7, 11.
  - Each person's gift has been chosen by the Holy Spirit and is empowered by the Holy Spirit, and is for the common good, v. 11.
- There are great varieties of spiritual gifts, great varieties of ministries for gifts to be used within, and great varieties of powers of the Holy Spirit in a person's ministering, vv. 4-7.
- Everyone in the church is gifted, needed, and needy, vv. 12-20.

# P A S T O R ' S   C H A T

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The Bible starts with the words “In the beginning God...” The Bible ends with the Lord Jesus Christ as “the End”, Revelation 22:13. Between those two statements lays the history of and the ending of time as measured by mankind on this earth. The story of mankind on earth is defined by God who created the beginning -- and the Ending is God by His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. It strikes me, as we live in 2019, how much the culture we live within has changed both bookends of the beginning and the end of mankind's time on this earth. It strikes me even more how important it is for each of us to understand the true beginning and end to live a wise life that understands and redeems time.

The Bible says that when God created man, “The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”, Genesis 2:7. Earlier in Genesis it says, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”, Genesis 1:27. Thus the Bible says mankind is both like other beings and mankind is unique from other beings. God formed man from the elements of the earth to live with other beings in a common environment with similar principles of biological life. Yet we know man was created as a spiritual being totally unlike other beings. Man was made in the likeness of God. No other being has likeness to mankind. Thus we are like other beings yet profoundly unique.

The world we live in presents the understanding of life through various theories under the concept of evolution. This form of evolution isn't what we see in how God has created beings within species to adjust

over time to their environment. We don't argue against microevolution. In the common theory of evolution, the universe started in a massive explosive moment that hurled energy out. Some energy formed into matter and part of that was planet earth. It further speculates that out of this matter, life on earth began. Out of this, in time, beings formed, and out of those forms man came. In this theory man has no purpose. Man is just part of an evolutionary cycle. In this theory the end is uncertain. In this theory life ends at death and man returns to dust. In this theory there is no source of right and wrong and there is no accountability after life for ones actions. There are only choices with good consequences, and choices with bad consequences.

It strikes me, living in a world in which God is neither the beginning nor the ending, it is a challenge for us to present a Holy God, a sinful man responsible for sinful choices, and a final judgment by God at the end that we all will face. It is impossible to truly understand the significance of the cross and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the Gospel has the power to save but part of that, for us, is to help people understand that each of us is created by God and responsible to God. We have to help people understand God has established what is right and what is wrong. We have to understand we were made in the likeness of God so that we can have a living relationship with Him. We have to help them understand there is a coming judgment that only Jesus can save us from. We will be using that focus at our Resurrection Celebrations on Easter Sunday. The message will be “The Beginning and the End” from Revelation 4:6-11; 5:6-14. Pray that God opens eyes of understanding.