

Cornerstone Church

September 18, 2016

Sermon Series: Advanced Training for Jesus' Soldiers –
Prepping Ourselves for His Return

Today's Sermon: Rescuing the Damned Through the
Power of the Spirit

Today's Passages: Acts 13:1-13; 16:6-10

Introduction

Main point: The Holy Spirit is the promised presence of Jesus who comforts the fearful and empowers the weak to rescue the damned and expand Christ's Kingdom to the uttermost parts of the earth.

- The Holy Spirit is the primary administrator, and empowerer guaranteeing the success of the great Commission.
 - The mission for which Jesus came to earth was to redeem sinners and place them into His expanding Kingdom. **And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:9-10 ESV)**
 - Frightened men like the apostles would never be able to begin accomplishing the task of the Great Commission without 1) Courage, 2) Power, and, 3) Administration. Therefore the only person who could accomplish these tasks was the Holy Spirit.

The need for courage:

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had

said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-22 ESV)

The disciples were quaking with fear for their lives (and possible cruel executions) when Jesus appears and gives them courage via the Holy Spirit. (That same promise is available for us today and tomorrow when we enter into severe persecution).

This was the first installment of the Holy Spirit – that installment being the Spirit's peace in the midst of fear.

This installment was previously promised by Jesus in John 16:7

The second installment of the Holy Spirit was for . . .

The Need for Power

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:3-5 ESV)

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:6-8 ESV)

Resulting in . . .

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4 ESV)

This installment of the Spirit was the fulfillment of the Father's promise in Luke 24:49

and (Jesus) said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:46-49 ESV)

When the Holy Spirit fills us with His power He:

1. Enhances what is already present by taking biblical knowledge and bringing it to bear on unrepentant listeners. Therefore the more knowledge you have the more the HS can use you.
2. Will instruct us in what we should do and where we should go.

And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." (Acts 8:29 ESV)

And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." (Acts 10:19-20 ESV)

And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. (Acts 11:12 ESV)

When Holy Spirit is telling us where to go and who to speak to He is being the Great Commission Administrator.

The Need for Administration

1. The Holy Spirit is in charge of calling missionaries to service.

[1] Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. [2] While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

2. The Holy Spirit sends His missionaries out in partnership with the local church.

[3] Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

3. The Holy Spirit decides where to send His missionaries for the most impact.

[4] So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. (Acts 13:1-4 ESV)

[6] And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. [7] And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. (Acts 16:6-7 ESV)

4. The Holy Spirit determines the timing of mission advancement.
 - It was 17 years before mission activity began in earnest

5. The Holy Spirit determines the compatibility of teams

6. The Holy Spirit leads teams to ready converts.

Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch and Lydia.

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. (Acts 16:14-15 ESV)