

## THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES: AWAKENING, UNITING, GIFTING, AND HELPING

### I. LAST WEEK WE SAW THAT TONGUES

- A. Are the power to speak foreign languages, not a special spiritual language
- B. Are not the unconditional mark of conversion or second blessing but the sign of the apostolic age and the destruction of all human barriers to the Gospel
- C. Are for non-Christians, not for Christians
- D. Are a marker of the reversal of the Tower of Babel
- E. Are representative of a new epoch in redemptive history, i.e. the formation of the church through the preaching of the apostles

### II. AWAKENING

- A. Who are we Humans? Dead men walking.
  - 1. Eyes—II Cor. 4.4
  - 2. Ears—Matt. 13.14-15
  - 3. Hands—Isaiah 59.3, 6
  - 4. Tongue/Mouths—Romans 3.13-14
  - 5. Minds—Romans 1.28, 8.6-7; Eph. 4.18
  - 6. Heart—Jer. 17.9, John 3.19-20
  - 7. Desires—Eph. 4.22
  - 8. Totality—Eph. 2.1, Romans 8.6-8
- B. What does the Spirit Do with Us? Awakens us.
  - 1. John 16.7-11
  - 2. Romans 8.2
  - 3. I Cor. 2.6-14
  - 4. II Cor. 3.6, 4.4-6

- III. **UNITING**—But now the Spirit must do something amazing. He does not simply give us forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, cancelled sin, removal of condemnation, new life, etc. He is the instrument by which we get them but they must come from somewhere. John Calvin: “We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us.” John 3.3-8; I Cor. 6.11. So he unites us by faith, we repent of old, and God makes a new creation (II Cor. 5.17). Now we are, as Paul says 160 times, “in Christ,” where there is no condemnation (Rom. 8.1)

We are awakened to our sin by the Spirit, we hear the Word of Christ by the Spirit, we see the beauty of Christ by the Spirit, we are regenerated to new life by the Spirit which ultimately means that we are united to Christ by the Spirit, and once we’re tied to Him, the Spirit makes us like Him (Col. 3.9-10, Gal. 5.22-24, Rom. 8.29, I John 3.2). How? Not by telling us primarily about Himself but by focusing our attention on Christ (John 16.12-14; II Cor. 3.18, Phil. 3.3). This is how we test the Spirit’s work in our life? How do you know that the Spirit is at work?

“Because God has so made us that we long to become like what we adore, the Spirit helps us see Christ increasingly as glorious and worthy of praise, and when this happens, we seek to become more and more like Him. From our initial conversion to our ultimate glorification, the Spirit constantly commends us to the wonder and the glory of the Son. As we see Him, aided as we are by the Spirit’s illuminating work, we become like Him. The Spirit sanctifies us by pointing us to Jesus. The Spirit focuses our attention on Jesus.” (Bruce Ware) Yet still, we are part of something bigger than individual salvation. Titus 3.3-6/Matthew 19.28 and “The Regeneration.” This leads us...

#### **IV. GIFTING—John 7.37-41; Eph. 4; I Cor. 12**

- A. Gifts of the Spirit are the external manifestation of Jesus’ triumph and exaltation (Eph. 4.7-8)
- B. I Cor. 12.3 confirms this, namely that all the gifts are demonstrations of the Lordship of Christ.
- C. Gifts are given by the Spirit to the church. Therefore, we do not own our gifts. They are not for ourselves but for the church and the glory of God.
- D. One of the greatest manifestations of the Spirit is to build up the church (I Corinthians 14.12).
- E. Sovereignty of the Spirit—He chooses (v.11)—Our desire for other, ‘better’ gifts betrays at least 2 things about us
  - 1. Our lack of trust in the Sovereignty of the Spirit
  - 2. Our concern for individual glory over and above good of the body
- F. Miraculous Gifts—Do Healing, Prophecy, and Tongues still happen today?

#### **V. HELPING**

- A. Illuminating/Teaching—I Cor. 2.4-16; Eph. 1.17, 3.2-5
- B. Convicting—John 16.7-12
- C. Comforting—Acts 9.31
- D. Leading—Romans 8.14; Galatians 5.16, 25
- E. Hope-Giving—Romans 15.13
- F. Sanctifying—II Corinthians 3.17-18
- G. Empowering—Exodus 35.30-35