



SERMON NOTES

US N°. 151

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Title: Two objects cannot occupy the same space

#4 in the series on the Spirit Filled Church

1. Review

- a. The greatest commandments: love God with everything and love our neighbors
- b. The Spirit is absolutely required for us to lead holy & pleasing lives for God, to lead lives of abundant life.
- c. Know who the Holy Spirit is; no matter denomination or theology, He is the presence of God.
- d. God has had a plan since the beginning and to fulfill it He has placed His Spirit within each disciple so that they (*each one*) may be equipped for every good that His Kingdom may advance.

2. What happened on Pentecost and the lessons we can learn.

- a. Prior to Pentecost the Holy Spirit was not given. (cf. Jn. 7:39) Jesus' two Holy Spirit moments.
 - i. When Jesus appears to His disciples after His resurrection He breathed upon them; Jn. 20:22, *"And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, **'Receive the Holy Spirit.'**"*
 - ii. Then just prior to His ascension, Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for the baptism of Holy Spirit to come upon them; Acts 1:4-5, 8, *"**you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...**"*
- b. How were the disciples?
 - i. They were deeply attached to the Lord Jesus. Through 3 years of intimate ministry marked by learning, love and obedience, the disciples had knitted their lives to that of Jesus. Concretely believing in the Lord, being zealous in His service, and eagerly desiring Him and His holiness seem prerequisites to achieving a greater fullness of His presence in our daily lives today.
 - ii. They had left all for Jesus. You get what you pay for and *"nothing for nothing"* holds as general principle in our spiritual walk. Jesus' parables of the pearl and treasure highlight this as well. Luke 14:33, *"**whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.**"*
 1. They were rewarded for their sacrifice. Jn. 14:17, *"**the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**"*
 - iii. They had despaired utterly of themselves and all that is of man. We have two enemies of our soul: Satan and our *Ego*. Our *Ego* is the stronger and the more dangerous of the two. One can make progress in separating from the world but still be dominated by the self-life. It begins by forsaking outward possessions, but progresses further inward to father, mother and self. *Ego* is natural and belongs to natural man, the very thing we're commanded to crucify. For 3 years the disciples learned about forsaking, but it was the crucifixion of Christ that resulted in utter despair that ripped even the filaments of hope they had in a *"worldly Kingdom."* Jesus' appearance to them at that moment re-defined absolutely everything for them.

- iv. They received and held fast the promise of the Spirit. In the midst of grief at His going, Jesus promised that His going away would be better for them because the Spirit Himself would come and abide eternally within them. Despite not fully grasping what He meant, nonetheless they waited expectantly the 10 days. Jesus promised in Jn. 7:38, *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*
- v. They waited until promise was fulfilled. 10 days (!) during which time they sought God. The blessing comes directly from God alone, where else can we look? This is not gift separate from the giver – the gift is the Giver Himself. It's much more intimate and personal. As we grasp this truth then we begin to re-evaluate our approach to Him – loving more, sacrificing deeper, relinquishing ourselves more, etc.
- vi. The changes wrought in apostles after Pentecost. They went from grief to joy, shame to boldness and fear to courage.
- c. The Bible describes the experience as a *"baptism"* of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. So what's the problem, why do so few experience this gift of God?
 - a. The symptoms that show that too few experience this gift.
 - i. Too little power for victory over sin among the children of God. (cf. 1 Cor. 2:4-5) We've become accustomed to the cycle of sin, then confession, and then renewed unfaithfulness that we no longer wrestle with the problem of powerlessness. [car wash]
 - ii. Scarce separation from the world. 2 Cor. 6:17, *"COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."*
 - iii. Lack of steadfastness or endurance and growth in faith. Tests of prosperity or trial leave few standing upright.
 - iv. Widespread indifference for the service among the unconverted.
 - v. Too little preparedness for self-sacrifice in behalf of the extension of the Kingdom.
 - b. How is blessing being hindered in the Church's life? Mt. 16:24-25, *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* Many may ask "why" must Christians be called to always deny themselves, but two such diverse things cannot occupy the same space. [oil & water]
 - i. Many are misinformed and do not seek earnestly the blessing.
 - ii. The spirit of this world has deeply penetrated our hearts. We first must recognize that our individual *"self"* is under the power of sin; the fall of Satan and Man were perversions of their selves as they sought their own pleasure apart from God's will. There is true battle between the two worlds and Jesus requires an undivided heart, not requests. We must come to realize how deep the spirit of this world has penetrated our heart and thoughts without our even recognizing the danger.
 - 1. 1 Jn. 2:15-16, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world."*

2. 1 Cor. 2:12, *"we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God..."*
- iii. Our own life must be laid on the altar to make room for the life of God. It was unimaginable to the ancients that the Spirit of the living God would dwell within man. It is unbelievably holy and glorious.
 1. Rom. 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*
- iv. The world and natural man cannot receive or comprehend the Spirit of God. There is an eternal antagonism between the Spirit and the flesh that battles for control.
 1. Jn. 14:17, *"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*
 2. 1 Cor. 2:14, *"the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*
- v. The unbelief that ONLY God can work the transformation in us. There is a strong reliance on self-will and self-help that undermines the dependency upon Him. [effort to be a living sacrifice]
 1. Zech. 4:6, *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,"*
 2. Gal. 3:3, *"Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"*
- vi. The fear of or rebellion against self-humiliation and death. It's called *"the way of the Cross"* for a reason, and apart from the persistent presence of God no man could pass that way.
 1. James 4:6, 10, *"GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."*
 2. 1 Pet. 5:6, *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,"*
- c. Therefore, choose this day, whom you will follow. Joshua 24:14-15, *"Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

4. Take-aways

- a. The blessing of the Holy Spirit is not about what we get, but Who we receive.
- b. We must forsake all for the ultimate Prize
- c. Wait on the Lord to fulfill His promises
- d. Baptized: dyed, immersed & overwhelmed
- e. Two objects cannot occupy the same space
- f. Our growth is hindered by: opinion, corruption, self-life, bad reception, self-reliance, and refusing humility.
- g. Choose for yourself this day whom you will serve.