

The Holy Spirit: His Person and Work

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Acts 1,2

I. Introduction

“If we settle for mere speculations and mental notions about Christ as doctrine, we shall find no transforming power or efficacy communicated unto us thereby. But when, under the conduct of spiritual light, our affections do cleave unto him with full purpose of heart, our minds fill up with thoughts and delight in him – then virtue (change of character) will proceed from him to purify us, increase our holiness, strengthen our graces, and to fill us sometimes with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” John Owen

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.” Wayne Grudem

Define Charismatic – *“A charismatic is someone who has a passionate pursuit of the manifest presence of God both individually and corporately.”*

II. The Coming Holy Spirit

The coming of the Spirit is the coming of God Himself. He comes to those whose sins have been forgiven and whose lives have been made new. The coming of the Spirit is against the backdrop of the exaltation of Jesus Christ. The promise of the Spirit coming is proof that the Father has accepted the sacrifice of Jesus and exalted Him above all else.

“Absolutely central to Paul’s theology of the Spirit is that the Spirit is the fulfillment of the promises found in Jeremiah and Ezekiel: that God himself would breathe on us and we would live; that he would write his law in our hearts; and especially that he would give his Spirit “unto us” so that we are indwelt by him. What is crucial for Paul is that we are thus indwelt by the eternal God. The gathered church and the individual believer are the new locus of God’s own presence with his people; and the Spirit is the way God is now present.” G. Fee

III. The Effects of the Coming Holy Spirit

A. Greater Awareness of God’s Presence

“...the Spirit’s major role in Paul’s view of things lies with his being the absolutely essential constituent of the whole of Christian life, from beginning to end. The Spirit thus empowers ethical life in all of its dimensions – personal, corporate and in the world. Believers in Christ, who for Paul are “Spirit people” first and foremost, are variously described as living by the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, sowing to the Spirit...the Spirit conforms the believer into the likeness of Christ to the glory of God. The Spirit is therefore the empowering presence of God for living the life of God in the present.” Fee

B. Greater Awareness of Boldness in Speech and Action

The central purpose of the giving of the Spirit is for enabling power to witness in both word and action. The gift of this power brings about extraordinary boldness and courage.

Acts 1:8 – “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 world.”

Peter in Acts 2:14,36; Acts 4:7-12; 29-31; Stephen in Acts 6:3-10; and Paul in Acts 9:17-29; on and on in the book of Acts.

The Holy Spirit took ordinary men and made them extraordinary! Men that changed the world.

C. Greater Awareness of Deeping Fellowship

When we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit they should be a greater awareness of our fellowship with each other. There is a love for each other, a sharing and community among each other, and an openness with our brothers and sisters.

Acts 1:14 – “they were in one accord”

Acts 2:42-45 – the community of God being expressed to the world

D. Greater Awareness to Praise God and Joy

A greater awareness of praise to God and joy in the midst of sometimes suffering. Worship and praise was the immediate response the glory and presence of God was revealed.

Acts 2:11; Acts 10:46; Acts 13:52; Romans 15:13

1 Thess. 1:6 – “And you became imitators of us and of the Lord for you received the work in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit.”

IV. Conclusion

“The truth of the matter is this. The distinctive, constant, basic ministry of the Holy Spirit under the new covenant is so to mediate Christ’s presence to believers – that is, to give them such knowledge of his presence with them as their Savior, Lord, and God – that three things happen...personal fellowship with Jesus...personal transformation of character into Jesus’ likeness...the Spirit-given certainty of being loved, redeemed and adopted through Christ.” Packer