

Teaching Notes

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

MESSAGE 3

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE AND FUNCTION AFTER
PENTECOST - THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS CHAPTER 2
PENTECOST*

*The equipping of the Saints with power from on high
to fulfil the great commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment*

Review last Sundays Messages

ACTS CHAPTER 1

Acts Chapter 1:4 - Luke tells us that Jesus gathered them together in Jerusalem. They were to wait for the "Promise of the Father" - The Holy Spirit.

Acts Chapter 1:5 - Jesus spoke to them and said:

"...John baptised you water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts Chapter 1:8 - Jesus continues and said:

"... but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of earth."

Mark 16:14-18 (Just before his ascension)

"Afterward He appeared to the eleven ... And He said to them,
'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation...These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.'"

Acts Chapter 1:9-11 - The ascension takes place - Jesus returns to the Father.

Acts Chapter 1:12-14 - Some 120 believers were gathered together, including the 11 disciples. (Including: women, Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers)
We are told that they were all of one mind continually devoting themselves to prayer.

Then, at the Feast of Pentecost, it was the turn of the third Person of the Trinity. As promised he came and baptised the 120 believers with power – equipping them to preach the Gospel to all nations.

INTRODUCTION – Pentecost in Context

This would have to be one of the most exiting parts of the Bible. Pentecost is the outcome of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the direct fulfilment of the promises made as far back as Genesis 3:15. This promise was subsequently re-enforced throughout the Old Testament. Here it finally happens! The Holy Spirit, who once freely indwelt Adam and Eve, is restored to humankind. The promise of the Father has come.

To understand and get a feel of what took place we need to go back to the beginning of Jesus' coming to earth, the incarnation.

We need to use our imagination a little here. Some of the things that would have taken place behind the scene.

1. HAPPENINGS BEHIND THE SCENE

- **Incarnation - Awareness of Jesus' departure in heaven just before and after his incarnation (Incarnation: John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-9)**

There is some awareness, at least by some, in heaven about what was going-on on earth.

How do we know that?

New Testament

- Annunciation – Angel Gabriel was aware up and coming incarnation (Luke 1:26)
- Zacharias – An angel announces birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11, 19)
- Angels after the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:8-14)
- Angels ministered to Jesus after the temptations (Matthew 4:11)
- Abraham was aware (John 8:56) **Read from verse 48-59**
- Moses and Elijah ministering to Jesus - transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)
- An angel ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
- Angels at the empty tomb speaking to the women (4-8, 23)
- Angels speaking to the disciples after his ascension (Acts 1:10-11)
- Angels rejoice when one sinner repents (Luke 15:10)

- **The Scene in heaven at the time of Jesus' death**
 - All of heaven would have held its breath
 - Jesus cry: "Eloi, Eloi, Lama, Sabachtani" – *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (Mark 15:34)
 - "Father turning his face away from his Son"– *Clouds before the sun 'It is finished'*
- **The scene in heaven at Jesus' resurrection**
The shouts of joy and hallelujah's are still echoing through the universe!
- **The scene in heaven at Jesus' return to heaven - ascension**
The greatest welcome imaginable!
 - **Revelation 5:12** *"Worthy is the Lamb which was slain to receive power, wisdom, might, honour, glory and blessing"*
 - **Revelation 5:13** *"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor, and glory and dominion for ever and ever,"*
 - **Revelation 5:14** *"And the four living creatures kept saying, 'Amen.' And the elders fell down and worshiped."*
- **The scene in heaven at Pentecost – 'Departure' of the third Person of the Trinity**
Great joy in heaven about the reason for it all - humankind being restored into relationship with God and thus the birth of his Body the Church. We see his coming in Acts chapter 2 and the empowering of the believers
- **The future return of Jesus Christ** (Acts 1:11)

2. ACTS CHAPTER 2 – PENTECOST

"And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place and suddenly..."

The coming of the Promise of the Father!

The excitement of the return of the victorious Christ, the shouts of joy, the hallelujahs and worship before his throne would have subsided for a moment as now the time had come for the third Person of the Godhead to depart and thus fulfil the promise of the Father and the Son. Abraham, Elijah, David and all the company of heaven literally held their breath.

What a moment in history!

The same Holy Spirit who had been actively involved in the physical creation of the earth, who inspired the writers of Scripture, who equipped and anointed the prophets, priests, kings and others for their God given tasks - now presences' himself upon the one hundred and twenty believers gathered together in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.

- **It was spectacular!**
- **There came a noise from heaven like a violent rushing wind.**
- **Tongues of fire resting on the believers.**

- **They were speaking with other tongues as the Spirit was giving them utterances.**
What a scene!
- **It was strange to say the least!**
- **It was loud and incredibly noisy!**
- **It attracted thousands!**

The reason why we know that it was very noisy and spectacular is from the fact that it attracted a crowd of thousands. We know that some three thousand got saved, but they may have only been half of the crowd or even just a fraction of the numbers present.

The response of the multitude to this amazing manifestation of the Holy Spirit is one of bewilderment:

- verse 6 - Amazement
- verse 7 - Great perplexity
- verse 12 - They were saying to each other, *"What does this mean?"*

- **There was spontaneous joy!**

That there was great joy is clear from the response of those who mockingly said:
"They are full of new wine."

When the Holy Spirit is poured out and moves upon people it can be very noisy and loud. It nearly always causes an emotional response from those present.

The Holy Spirit, although the God of order, can also bring about amazing turmoil when he moves. There is a great difference, however, between turmoil and disorder.

Disorder is destructive whereas turmoil brought about by the Holy Spirit always leads to order.

When God created the earth, the Holy Spirit moved over the surface of the waters. He moved over an earth that was dark, formless and void. As he moved, the earth was shaken at its very core. Earthquakes everywhere, volcano's erupting on the dry land and in the sea. Continents were born. What a spectacle! What a noise! Yet we all know the end result. He brought order and amazing beauty where once there was disorder, darkness and void.

When the Holy Spirit manifests himself it is always in accordance to Scripture.

Please note that immediately after the Holy Spirit had the people's attention, Peter stands up and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit immediately links this manifestation into the Word of God. He said:

"...let it be known to you...these men are not drunk...but this is as was spoken of through the prophet Joel:.."

A manifestation in accordance with the Scriptures

In the next five verses he quotes Scripture and **validates the manifestation of the Holy Spirit** as being a true move of God. Here we learn how to discern whether a manifestation

is truly from God by considering if it is in accordance with Scripture.

The gospel preached

However, the real crux of this wonderful happening is not the manifestation!

The heart of the chapter is what follows next.

Verses 22-24 are probably the most overlooked verses of this chapter yet in essence they are the centre of all that took place on the day of Pentecost.

The words in those three verses caused a far greater turmoil in the hearts of people than the outward spectacular manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

It is *truth* that cuts people to the heart. It is sharper than a two edged sword. (See also Acts 11:18).

What happened?

“Men of Israel listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - this Man, delivered up by a predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And God raised Him up again, putting an end to death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”

When the multitude heard these words: **Jesus the Nazarene** literally shock waves would have rocked their souls and consciences. Peter, made sure that they fully understood who he was talking about when he said: ***the same one who did the miracles and wonders and signs right there in your midst - just as you yourselves know, remember?***

The impact of the gospel on a guilty conscious

Of course, they remembered! How could they have forgotten it! It would have been daily in their minds for the last fifty days. Sleepless nights. Standing accused of killing an innocent man. While walking home the day after Passover they would have asked themselves the question: "why did we do it?" "Why did we choose Barabas?" When they returned home from that fateful Passover feast their wives and children would have asked the question, "Did you see Jesus?"

The guilt and shame they must have felt when they told them with, broken voices, that they had nailed him to a cross. How could they possible have forgotten! Like every other Jewish male, they returned, with heavy hearts, to Jerusalem fifty days later to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Facing the very place where they had committed the greatest crime of all of history - the murder of an innocent man. Jesus Christ the very Son of God.

Is it any wonder that when they saw and heard this manifestation of God's Spirit that they were amazed and perplexed saying: "What does this mean?" Their nerves were already on edge.

Then Peter stands up and after quoting the prophesy of the prophet Joel, he mentions, without warning, the name of **the one they had nailed to a cross, Jesus the Nazarene**. Everything within them would have cried out, "don't mention that name!" The mention of the name **Jesus** would have caused an enormous internal explosion, probably even greater than the sound of the violent rushing wind from heaven. The Holy Spirit was doing his convicting work and leading many of them to a place of Godly sorrow. But the cross is not end of the story!

Resurrection hope!

In verse 24 are written the greatest words of hope to all who through our sin have nailed Christ to a cross (and that's all of us!): **"God raised Him up again"**

It is beyond our imagination, the feelings that would have been aroused when Peter said that God had raised him up again and thus putting an end to the agony of death. Completely unexpected (and undeserved) there was offered to them the hope of an end to their agony also!

If Jesus was alive then there would have been hope for setting things right!

- Hope for reconciliation!
- Hope of forgiveness for this horrendously committed sin!

But how could they be sure?

In the next twelve verses explains Peter to them that the resurrection was also prophesied in Scripture. This was not just his idea - **it was written in Scripture!**

"Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David.... he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay." "This Jesus God raised up again," to which we are all witnesses" (Acts 2:31-32).

From verse 33 we see that while Peter was speaking the manifestations of God's Spirit were still in full swing. *"...the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."*

Verse 36 brings this whole demonstration of God's power, his truth and love to a climax when Peter exclaims the truth of the divinity of Christ.

*"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - **this Jesus whom you crucified.**"*

The explosion now rips through the heart of those listening, the sword of the Spirit piercing the very soul with the realisation of having crucified the Messiah, the Son of God - with penetrating screams full of agony they cry out:

"BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?"

This cry embodies sinful man standing before the Cross. We stand condemned to eternal punishment - *hell!* Through our sins *we too* have crucified the Son of God! Who can save us?

The answer to their cry for help (and ours):

“And Peter said to them, “Repent and let each of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Their response to the offer of salvation:

“So then, those who had received his word were baptised; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

The response in heaven...

“Worthy, is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing. To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honour and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

(Revelation 5:12-13) See also Luke 15:10 – Angels rejoicing

It must be clear to all reading this wonderful chapter that the Holy Spirit used a number of means to bring people to **repentance and faith** in the Saviour Jesus Christ.

3. What were the means the Holy Spirit used?

(1) To get their attention

- Filled the believers with the Holy Spirit (equipping for the task)
- Gift of tongues (as a sign and fulfilled promise)
- Tongues of fire (a supernatural manifestation of God's presence)
- Violent rushing wind (his power and presence displayed)

(2) To touch their hearts

- Opening their understanding through Peter's Holy Spirit inspired use of the Scriptures
- The convicting power of the Holy Spirit through Peter's testimony of the death and resurrection of Christ
- The gospel message of the death and resurrection of Christ together with the offer of salvation through repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ

The means are simply the means to lead people to Christ!

We must take note of this God-given example and instruction as seen in Acts 2.

- We must not allow the means to become the focus point.
- All means that the Holy Spirit uses, including you and me, ought to point to Jesus Christ
- If the means, however much Holy Spirit inspired, takes centre stage then they simply become idols!
- The experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit can become an idol; miracles of

- healing can easily take centre stage blocking the view of the Healer.
- Even the Scriptures themselves can become an object of worship in place of the Author. The Bible is a wonderful gift from God to humankind but it remains *a means* only.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS CHAPTERS 3-28

- Acts 4:31 - House was shaken
- Acts 6:5-10; 7:55 - Stephen full of the grace, power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 8:14-17 - Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit
- Acts 9:17-20 - Paul's healing and baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Acts 10:35-48 - Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
- Acts 11:1-18 - Peter reports to apostles in Jerusalem
- Acts 13: 1-4 - Paul and Barnabas sent out by the Holy Spirit
- Acts 13:52 - The disciples continually being filled with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 15:28 - "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us"
- Acts 16:6-10 - Forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak in Asia (16: 6); Spirit of Jesus did not permit them to go into Bithynia (16: 7); Instructed to go to Macedonia (16: 9)
- Acts 19:1-6 - Paul at Ephesus (Baptism of John and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 20:23 - Holy Spirit speaks to Paul about future persecution

Summing up

- 1. Besides the coming of the promised Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church, Acts 2 is also given as a means to discern whether a 'manifestation' is truly a Holy Spirit manifestation**
- 2. Jesus, his cross and resurrection must always be central – *the gospel***
- 3. We must never put the Holy Spirit in a 'box' – he works out his purposes however, whenever and in whatever way he wills.**

**Tonight I will share my testimony as to how I was baptised with the Holy Spirit
And we will look Paul's teaching about the gifts and right use of the gifts of the Spirit**