

Lesson # 10 -- The Greatness of the Lord Jesus' Gift of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- A. In this last lesson of our series we wish to study the work of the glorified Lord Jesus in sending to us the Holy Spirit.
- B. As we contemplate the Day of Pentecost we see the Lord Jesus as we have come to know Him through all the other great transactions recorded of Him. We see His love, His faithfulness, and His holiness in reaching out to His own.
- C. We must also keep in mind that the Savior, in giving us the Holy Spirit, was fulfilling the work He had been given by the Father. The Day of Pentecost was the work of the Lord Jesus.
- D. Since we have covered the great truths of Pentecost in other series, our goal now is to look at the Savior's gift of the Holy Spirit in such a way that we gain a deeper understanding of the Lord Jesus.

I. The Prophetic Explanation of the Day of Pentecost.

A. The prophecy of Joel.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams your young men shall see visions, and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. Joel 2:28,29

Comment: Here we are told a day will come when all believers will be anointed alike. While we see many evidences of the Holy Spirit and His work in the Old Testament -- we are told a day would come when there would be a new outpouring of the Spirit.

B. The Prophecy of John the Baptist.

And John ... preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy of stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water, but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:6-8

Comment: The thought here is again on the greatness of the Lord Jesus. While John baptized in water to symbolize the redeeming work of the coming Messiah -- the Savior would redeem His own and in that work -- give them the Holy Spirit.

C. The prophecy of the Lord Jesus.

1. The Day of Pentecost and the will of God.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. John 14:16,

Comment: In this passage the Holy Spirit and His work is indicated by the titles "Comforter" (Helper), and "Spirit of Truth." The Savior underlined the importance of the Holy Spirit's coming by reference to His prayer and the Father's gift. There is also the emphasis on the unusual nature of His coming and its permanence.

2. The Day of Pentecost and its goal.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me John 16:13,14

Comment: As we read the Bible we see the one single plan of our Father which is to glorify the Lord Jesus. The Day of Pentecost is one facet of that plan. The entire work of the Holy Spirit is designed to point out the greatness of our Savior. If we are to live in the will of God His goal must be ours.

3. The Day of Pentecost and its provision.

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Comment: It is not the will of God that we live and serve in our own strength. The Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost so we could live as a witness to the truths of the Gospel. He has come to be our Helper.

II. The Historic Explanation of the Day of Pentecost.

A. On that Day the prophecies regarding the Holy Spirit were fulfilled.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel. Acts 1:1-4,16

Comment: What a surprise this must have been for this small band of believers. As far as we know nothing like this had ever happened before. While these believers knew they were to be given the Holy Spirit -- how that was to be done and what it would mean -- they did not know. They must have been overwhelmed with the sound, the appearance of fire, the gift of tongues, and the realization of the fulfillment of prophecy.

B. On that Day the Lord Jesus baptized His people with the Holy Spirit.

Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:33,47

Comment: On the Day of Pentecost a new era or dispensation in the work of God began. The Church, as a baptized and anointed organism came into existence. And now, in our day, in the moment of the new birth every believer is united to that body and is thereby given all the benefits of the Day of Pentecost.

III. The Experiential Explanation of the Day of Pentecost.

A. The Holy Spirit has come to indwell the believer.

What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not our own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Cor. 6:19,20

Comment: It staggers the imagination to think that we can be the very temple of God. And yet it is clear -- every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We do not belong to ourselves. We must keep in mind the potential that is ours for wisdom, holiness, and fruitfulness because of His presence.

B. The Holy Spirit has come to preserve and protect the believer.

In whom (the Lord Jesus) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance unto the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Eph. 1:13,14

Comment: The presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer is analogous to sealing a document. It denotes ownership, authenticity, and protective security. One important reason why every true believer is kept saved -- and assured of Heaven -- is due to the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are not kept by our good works but our good works indicate we are being kept.

- C. The Holy Spirit has come to enable the believer to live a holy life.

For is ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Rom. 8:13,14

Comment: One important facet of the work of the Spirit is to apply the work of the Lord Jesus. In the Crucifixion and Resurrection the Savior made every provision so we can live in freedom from sin and be characterized by righteousness and fruitfulness. The Holy Spirit has come to give us discernment regarding our need and to help us obey the Bible. It is of great importance that we learn how to "mortify" (put to death) the sinful expressions of our fallen nature.

- D. The Holy Spirit has come to enable the believer to be fruitful.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control Gal. 5:22,23

Comment: These verses remind us that Christianity is more than a series of doctrines to be believed. It is also a growing experience of the grace of God. The Holy Spirit will enable the honest and sincere believer to enter into a way of life that will be characterized by spiritual transformation.

- E. The Holy Spirit has come to enable the believer to enjoy spiritual things.

But the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom. 14:17

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 15:13

Comment: It is sad but true -- most Christians do not enjoy being a believer. It may be comforting for them to know they are going to Heaven, but they do not enjoy Bible study, prayer, living the Christian life or any form of Christian service. How different we would be -- if we had the joy of the Lord. That is God's will for us.

- F. The Holy Spirit has come to give us gifts and enable us to use them.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit ... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man (person) to profit withal (for the common good). I Cor. 12:4,7

Comment: Every believer has at least one gift so that he may bring glory and honor to the Lord Jesus. The Church is likened to our body with its many members which all have a job to do. When we live in harmony with the truths of the Bible -- and seek to glorify the Savior -- the Holy Spirit will be our enablement.