

Truths of Assurance and Freedom

Lesson # 10 -- The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- A. God has designed Christianity to work, i.e., to produce what the promises and the commandments of the Bible state. To understand and accept this will and should overwhelm us.
- B. The Holy Spirit is the One Who applies the work of redemption and brings the will of God to pass. For example: we are born again by the work of the Holy Spirit applying to us conviction, faith, and the power of the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus. He works in us so we are led to understanding, repentance and belief.
- C. The passages that explain the coming of the Holy Spirit, and His ministry, are some of the most exciting and encouraging in all the Bible.
- D. One basic characteristic of true Christianity is that it is highly personal in a very experiential way. It is the will of God that we experience His love, His presence, His joy, His power, etc.

I. The Desire of our Father -- and the Holy Spirit.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he give him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:11-13

Comments:

- A. At first glance we think this passage doesn't apply to us because the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost and to us in the new birth. Acts 2 and I Cor 12:13
- B. Further thought and study, however, leads us to recognize that many of the benefits we have been given are to be given over and over again -- or were given legally, and now it is God's will that they be "given" experientially.
- C. We see Paul prayed in Ephesians 1 and 3 that the believers in Ephesus, who had already received the Spirit in the new birth, be "given" the Spirit in wisdom and strength. He also commanded them to be "filled" with the Spirit. Eph 1:17,18; 3:16; 5:18
- D. It is helpful to see that our text follows a parable about unusual praying. The Lord Jesus used the illustration of a man, at night, requesting food from his neighbor and being very persistent until he gets it. David Gooding, in his book According to Luke, states that such persistence looks like a shameful act. But, if one has a real need, then persistence is not shameful but commendable. He then states, "We ought to be driven by a sense of its (ministry of the Holy Spirit) utter indispensability, which will make us completely 'shameless' in asking for it." Page 220

II. The Father's Will -- Prophetically Explained.

A. The prophecy of Joel 2:28,29

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon 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.

Comments:

- A. The clear teaching of this passage is that a day is coming in God's plan, in which every believer will share equally in the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Joel states there will be no distinction regarding men, women, age, or position in life.
- B. Don Carson, in his fine book Showing the Spirit, reminds us that this passage describes "an entirely new age, a new relationship between God and his people, a new covenant; and experientially this turns on the gift of the Spirit." Page 153
- C. It is important to recognize that our text was quoted by Peter, on the Day of Pentecost. He interpreted what was happening on that day by stating, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Acts 2:16
- D. The Joel prophecy has come to pass. And all believers today share the benefits of that provision -- legally.

B. The prophecy of John the Baptist.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire. Matt 3:11

Comments:

- A. This verse reminds us that the person and work of the Holy Spirit is an important part of the provision found in the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus. One aspect of the greatness of our Savior is seen in His ability to baptize with the Holy Spirit.
- B. As we relate this prophecy with that in Joel we see how all God has promised to the individual believer, and to the corporate Church, is included in the grace given to us by Jesus Christ. This is one reason why the gifts of the Holy Spirit are called "charismatic."
- C. A look at these passages should lead us to the conclusion of how important the Lord Jesus and His gift of the Holy Spirit should be in our daily life. We must examine our life in that light.

Conclusion: "If Christianity is true, why are we believers not more holy, joyful, loving, powerful, and fruitful?" The answer is: "We have grieved the Holy Spirit with our neglect, doubt, self-centeredness, and low level of expectation."