

Cooperating With The Holy Spirit (2)

Introduction

- A. When the Lord Jesus had finished His work here on earth, He “poured out” (Acts 2:33) the Holy Spirit upon His people. Consider one facet of this great provision. It simply means that our Savior has made abundant provision for every believer and placed us under the care of the Blessed Holy Spirit. We should meditate daily on the significance of His provision.
- B. One desire of the Holy Spirit is to distribute His gifts among us to glorify the Lord Jesus. These gifts are directly related to the Ascension of the Lord Jesus.

I. In the Ascension the Lord Jesus Returned Home as the Victorious Lord Bestowing Gifts.

A. The Scripture

**When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.
Ephesians 4:8** (See Psalm 68)

B. The Explanation

The Lord Jesus was born into the world to defeat His enemies. They were and are, Satan and his demons, as well as the devastation caused by His enemies: error, sin, sickness, death, and Hell. (See I Corinthians 15:23-26, 55-58; Revelation 21:4)

As the Scripture declares (Col 2:15; I John 3:8) the Lord Jesus **defeated** His enemies in the Crucifixion, **demonstrated** that victory in His Resurrection, and **displayed** that victory in His Ascension.

The picture of the Lord Jesus returning home in triumph (Psalm 68 and Eph 4:8) was based on a well know and rather common event when the Bible was being written. It was the celebration that occurred when a king went against his enemies and won the battle. As the king would return to his home (a fortress/castle city), he would lead a processional of his men. He would be riding in his royal chariot with his enemies chained to the chariot and walking alongside (**he led captives in his train**). His men would have wagons filled with the plunder they had taken in battle. As they proceeded into the city the king would be proclaimed as victorious and the soldiers would throw out of the wagons the spoils of their victory (**gave gifts to men**) to the people lining the streets.

What a wonderful time the Ascension was for the Lord Jesus. He had finished the work His Father had given Him to do. What a welcome He must have received when He returned home. Who can imagine the praise and adoration of the angels? What wonderful songs they must have composed for His homecoming. How delightful it must have been for the Lord Jesus, to be so adored by angels, and probably by saints in Heaven, and most of all to receive the "well done" of His Heavenly Father.

II. One of the Gifts the Holy Spirit Seeks to Give Us is “Gifts of Healings.”

A. The Scripture

To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,
1 Corinthians 12:9 (See also V 29)

B. The explanation.

All kinds of sickness is due to the entrance of sin into the human race. In His death and Resurrection the Lord Jesus defeated the **source of sickness and provided healing.**

But he was pierced for our transgressions ... and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5 (See Matt 12:15-21; 1 Peter 2:24)

III. The Biblical Context and Instruction Regarding Healing.

A. The example of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Matt. 4:23

B. The instruction of the Lord Jesus.

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1,2

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others ... Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' Luke 10:1,9

C. The example of the Apostles.

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people... Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Acts 5:12,16

D. The example of a non-Apostle.

When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. Acts 8:6,7

IV. The Promise For All Believers.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man (person) is powerful and effective. James 5:16