

KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS #3

ACTS 2:36-38

ATTENTION:

- In the lesson today and in the spirit of Christmas, I am going to reveal the location of an amazing gift you can keep for yourself or you can give it to someone else.
 - So, you will need to listen carefully.
 - We will come back to this at the end of the lesson to see if you heard me give the location of the gift.

ATTUNE:

- It is 30-33 AD on the day of Pentecost.
 - Jesus has recently been crucified and was resurrected in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - He spent 40 days walking on earth - only hours ago Jesus ascended/disappeared into heaven as the Apostles looked on.
 - The crowds have come to Jerusalem from many nations to celebrate the Jewish feast of Pentecost.
 - These crowds witness an extraordinary event:
 - They heard the noise of a mighty wind coming from heaven
 - Something like fiery tongues appear/ sit on Apostles head
 - Then the people begin to hear the Apostles speaking in each of their own native language declaring *the magnificent acts of God* (Acts 2:11)
- From there Peter becomes the prominent speaker and calls on the Jews to understand that Jesus must be accepted!
 - He fulfills the prophecies of the OT prophets.
 - They missed the connection of these prophecies to Jesus
 - They had crucified the Messiah the one sent to save them!
 - Then Peter gives the listening Jews a sobering challenge:

³⁶ Everyone in Israel should then know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, even though you put him to death on a cross.

- Their respond shows they know what they have done! **HELP!**

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were very upset. They asked Peter and the other apostles, “Friends, what shall we do?”

- Peter's answer is everyone's answer!

³⁸ Peter said, “Turn back to God! Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit.

- Peter - upon repentance/baptism the believer receives the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit,

⁴⁰ Peter told them many other things as well. Then he said, “I beg you to save yourselves from what will happen to all these evil people.” ⁴¹ On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized.

WHAT WAS PETER PROMISING?

- The Holy Spirit is given to the believers to indwell them.
 - God now dwelling within man through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

John 14:15-17

HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We can perceive His presence in a variety of ways, even if we do not do miracles.

- God's Promised His Indwelling - Acts 2:38 and other passages.
 - The surest confirmation is that if God promised it then it is!
 - So, if you have obeyed Acts 2:38 the Spirit indwells you.
 - It is important to understand the reverse is also true.
- We Begin to Have a Taste & Desire for Spiritual Things

- Desires

16 I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh...

Galatians 5:16-17

– Prayer

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings.

Romans 8:26

– Righteousness

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, 13 because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Romans 8:12-14

– Intimacy with God

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. 16 I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, 19 and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

- The Holy Spirit helps us know and appreciate God for who He truly is.
- This knowledge becomes the essence of our joy, hope and strength.

– Service in the Kingdom

4 Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person.

7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: 8 to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9 to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues. 11 One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- I know I have the Holy Spirit because I spend my life serving the Lord in His Kingdom.

PROJECT:

- Jesus uses an illustration in John 3 to describe how to perceive the activity of the Holy Spirit.

8 The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

John 3:8

- We cannot observe the Holy Spirit as He works within us
 - Like we cannot see the wind
- BUT what the Holy Spirit accomplishes within the Christian is visible proof of His presence.
 - just like the blowing leaves and rolling waves are proof of the presence of the wind.
- Looking for proof of the Spirit's work in our lives as Christian:
 - Many look for miracles as in the 1st century.
 - Others look for nothing but live without any help from the Spirit only doing the best they can on their own to make good decisions because of their knowledge of the Bible
- The proof is in the promise and perception of the Spirit's presence as they see their spiritual lives grow in assurance, righteous living, intimacy and communication with God and His Son Jesus Christ.
- Have you opened the gift?