

PENTECOST FIRE # 3 UNLEASHING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... AGAIN!

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. Acts 2:1-4

In this six-part series I have undertaken a study of the person, the purpose and the power of the Holy Spirit...that often overlooked (and more often misunderstood) third party in our Trinity. In week one we discovered that the first purpose of the Holy Spirit was to convict us and the world of our sin. In week two we determined that the Holy Spirit has a primary purpose in revealing Truth to us. This morning we shall consider the third primary purpose to be: Bringing Glory to Jesus. Let's consider the scripture from which each of these emerges:

But now I am going away to the One who sent me...but in fact it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of it's sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment....There is much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.' John 16:5-15

Maybe it would be helpful to see it in another translation:

He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I've said, 'He takes from me and delivers to you.' John 16:13-15 The Message

So as we consider this third purpose of the Holy Spirit, let me try and answer this question: **HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT GLORIFY JESUS?**

1. HE WILL NOT DRAW ATTENTION TO HIMSELF

We are living in a You-Tube world where pursuing your 15 minutes of fame is driving all kinds of stupid people to do all kinds of stupid things.

From 12 yr. old girls staging a fight to be video taped for the internet; to criminals posing at their crime scenes to make sure they get credit for their heinous acts, just before signing their book deals; to Paula, Randy and Simon “judging” various “idol” acts that involve crazy people singing crazier songs. Individuals in this society seem bent on drawing attention to themselves. From the obviously insecure “center of attention” at your office party, to the knucklehead at almost every professional sporting event, sporting the multi-colored afro, holding a John 3:16 sign. Drawing attention to ourselves seems to be a fashionable ‘way of life’ in our modern culture.

It was not so for the Holy Spirit. In this whole discussion from the pen of John we never see the Holy Spirit drawing any attention to himself. He understood who he was and the role he was existed to fulfill, it was all about glorifying Jesus. The most amazing thing that resulted from Jesus leaving, and the Promised Holy Spirit coming, was that now the ministry of Jesus could be extended to every person, all at the same time. Prior, Jesus was restricted in his ability to meet people’s needs by the physical limitations of time and space, placed on him by his humanness. With the Holy Spirit in full revelation, the healing power of Jesus was no longer limited to those who could touch his hem, or feel his touch. The preaching power of Jesus was no longer limited to those who could hear his audible voice. The encouraging ministry of Jesus’ presence was given full effect, by this new Encourager, who came to glorify Jesus...not himself!

I think we dare not overlook this HS quality for ourselves. There are many churches and too many Christians who have made the Holy Spirit, and some of His gifts to be ‘ends in themselves.’ I don’t think that fits with this understanding of the Holy Spirit. It think that Christian Americans have made this Christian life way too much about ourselves, our needs, our preferences, our wants, our prayers, our...our...our. We must remember, It’s all about Jesus...I’ve heard that somewhere recently, seen it on a magnet recently.

2. HE WILL MAKE SENSE OF ALL THAT HAS AND WILL HAPPEN

I think the mention here of ‘making sense’ of all that has and will happen might have a very immediate and local interpretation. The disciples were sitting with Jesus while he delivered his final words...we know ‘final words’ carry more weight than just ordinary words, don’t we? Even after spending 3 years being discipled by Jesus, and listening to his prophecies and predictions, the recent developments and upcoming events had thrown the 12 into some sense of confusion. The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus, to make sense of all that was and would happen.

I don’t think we have to delve too deeply to see this truth also applies to us. It is the Holy Spirit’s purpose to interpret or translate all that happens in our lives. It is part of the Holy Spirit’s purpose to make clear who God is and what Jesus has done for us. It is part of the Spirit’s work to make sense of the illogical, and to make clear the misunderstood.

I believe this work is not unrelated to the prior two purposes; convicting us of sin, and convincing us of Truth. Those two things are necessary prerequisites for ‘making sense’ of all that was, is, and will be happening to us. The Spirit uses his powers of conviction, and presentation of truth, to confirm in us the things of God, and the things Jesus said and did. It’s almost like...no it IS like there is a disconnect somewhere in our human being that disables our ability on a human level, to make sense of the “spiritual” things...until the Holy Spirit does his interpreting work. Think of your own life; how many of us had heard, knew things about, and have grown up surrounded by the stories, insights, impressions, understandings, even beliefs about God and Jesus? Most of us. But at some point those things we thought we knew suddenly made sense! That’s this ministry of the Holy Spirit, and somehow it brings glory to Jesus.

Think of how essential air is to our existence on the purely human level. It is invisible, though not imaginary. It is tasteless, odorless, colorless and absolutely pure unless we fill it with contaminants. Air contains oxygen, which is more essential to our bodies than food or nutrients. We can store food, but we can't store oxygen; we must receive it as our body demands it or death quickly comes. But think also of what our body does with this pure air; breathing it in sustains life; but the byproduct we expel after breathing, can literally kill us.

At so many levels, the simple quality of air is so essential to our existence, and I don't think it's any accident that the Spirit functions in so many of the same ways. We can live life without acknowledgement that there even is a spirit or spirit world or that we are spiritual people, but our lack of belief doesn't change the facts! We exist because of the air we breathe and need; but we also exist as spiritual people, because that's the way God made us, and the way the Spirit works in us to glorify Jesus. Doesn't make much natural sense, but it does make some "Spiritual Sense". Now here is the third way John mentions that the Spirit glorifies Jesus

3. HE WILL DELIVER TO US ALL THAT JESUS AND GOD POSSESS

I hope from my previous point you are beginning to see that part of this purpose of the Holy Spirit is to deliver, or translate, or interpret to us all that Jesus is, did, taught, and gave for us. What I don't get on the surface...is how that glorifies Jesus! I get how it enhances our life, even becomes our life, but I fail to see on the surface, how this glorifies Jesus!

Apparently I'm not alone. I read a sermon this week from Charles Spurgeon; that sought to answer this very question. I'd like to share part of it with you now.

"Observe, that the Holy Ghost glorifies Christ by showing to us the things of Christ. It is a great marvel that there should be any glory given to Christ by showing him to such poor creatures as we are. What! To make us see Christ, does that glorify him?"

For our weak eyes to behold him, for our trembling hearts to know him, and to love him, does this glorify him? It is even so, for the Holy Ghost chooses this as his principal way of glorifying the Lord Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ, not to show them to angels, not to write them in letters of fire across the brow of night, but to show them unto us. Within the little temple of a sanctified heart, Christ is praised, not so much by what we do, or think, as by what we see. This puts great value upon meditation, upon the study of God's word, and upon silent thought under the teaching (and conviction) of the Holy Spirit, for Jesus says, "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."

The Holy Ghost does not reveal in these last times any fresh ordinances, or any novel doctrines, or any new evolutions; but he simply brings to mind the things which Christ himself spoke, he brings Christ's own things to us, makes sense of them, and in that way glorifies him.

Think for a minute of *Christ's person* as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. What can more glorify him than for us to see his person, very God of very God, and yet as truly man? What a wondrous being, as human as ourselves, but as divine as God! Was there ever another like to him? Never.

Think of his *incarnation*, his birth at Bethlehem. There was greater glory among the oxen in the stall than ever was seen where those born in marble halls were swathed in purple and fine linen. Was there ever another babe like Christ? Never. I wonder not that the wise men fell down to worship him.

Look at his *life*, the standing wonder of all ages. Men, who have not worshipped him, have admired him. His life is incomparable, unique; there is nothing like it in all the history of mankind. Imagination has never been able to invent anything approximating to the perfect beauty of the life of Jesus Christ.

Think of his *death*. There have been many heroic and martyr deaths; but there is not one that can be set side by side with Christ's death. He did not pay the debt of nature as others do; and yet he paid our nature's debt. He did not die because he must; he died because he would. The only "must" that came upon him was a necessity of all-conquering love. The cross of Christ is the greatest wonder of fact or of fiction; fiction invents many marvelous things, but nothing can be looked at for a moment in comparison with the cross of Christ.

Think of our Lord's *resurrection*. If this be one of the things that are taken, and shown to you by the Holy Spirit, it will fill you with holy delight. I am sure that I could go into that sepulcher, where John and Peter went, and spend a lifetime in reverencing him who broke down that barrier of the tomb, and made it a passage-way to heaven. Instead of being a dungeon and a *cul-de-sac*, into which all men seem to go, but could never come out. Christ has, by his resurrection, made a tunnel right through the grave. Jesus, by dying, has killed death for all believers.

Then think of his *ascension*. But why need I take you over all these scenes with which you are blessedly familiar? What a wondrous fact that, when the cloud received him out of the disciple's sight, the angels came to convoy him to his heavenly home!

"They brought his chariot from above,
To bear him to his throne;
Clapp'd their triumphant wings, and cried,
'The glorious work is done.'"

Think of him now, *at his Father's right hand*, adored of all the heavenly host; and then let your mind fly forward to the glory of his Second Advent, the final judgment with its terrible terrors, the millennium with its indescribable bliss, and the heaven of heavens, with its endless and unparalleled splendor. If these things are shown to you by the Holy Spirit, the beatific vision will indeed glorify Christ, and you will sit down, and sing with the blessed Virgin,

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior."

Thus, you see that the things which glorify Christ are all in Christ; the Holy Spirit fetches nothing from abroad, but he takes of the things of Christ; and shows them unto us. The glory of kings lies in their silver and their gold, their silk and their gems; but the glory of Christ lies in Himself. If we want to glorify a man, we bring him presents; if we wish to glorify Christ; we must accept presents from him. Thus we take the cup of salvation, made clear by the compulsion of the Holy Spirit and call upon the name of the Lord, and in so doing we glorify Christ." Unquote

To summarize then, the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, by not drawing attention to himself, but by spreading the work of Jesus to everyone, everywhere, at the same time. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus by helping us make sense of the things we know, even believe; when those things need to become WHO we are. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus by bringing in all their fullness, all the fullness of Jesus, and His Father...to us; unworthy recipients...until we are made worthy by receiving all Christ is...and that too by the power, and purpose and person of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

PENTECOST FIRE # 3 UNLEASHING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... AGAIN!

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. Acts 2:1-4

But now I am going away to the One who sent me...but in fact it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of it's sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment....There is much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.' John 16:5-15

He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I've said, 'He takes from me and delivers to you.' John 16:13-15 The Message

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT GLORIFY JESUS?

1. HE WILL NOT DRAW _____ TO HIMSELF

2. HE WILL MAKE _____ OF ALL THAT HAS AND WILL HAPPEN

3. HE WILL _____ TO US ALL THAT JESUS AND GOD POSSESS