

1. Introduction

- a. Will touch on a number of passages today
 - i. But won't be a full detailed exegesis of each
 - ii. Only touching the central idea of the verse and add comment around it
- b. The greatest unwrapped gift ever...(not opened, used, and enjoyed)
 - i. You visit your best friend on Xmas Eve to bring him a gift you spent lots of money on it (front rows tickets to the Oilers next game against the Montreal Canadian and tell him to open it up only on Xmas day. Then you don't hear anything about the gift in the coming weeks....
 - ii. Then you are invited to celebrate the New Year at his place on Dec 31 only to discover with great disappointment that the gift remained unwrapped, unopened.
 - iii. This is often how, we Christians act w/ God's great gifts
 - iv. Take for instance the great gift of his Son JC, & w/ him salvation:
 - 1. We are familiar w/ JC and the benefit from his atonement, the resurrection, etc. → salvation, forgiveness, eternal life, etc.
 - 2. But when it comes to other great gifts, we are not so much
- c. We Baptist...
 - i. Greatly emphasize Jesus, salvation, water baptism, & rightly so but not so much another great gift, as important as the Jesus & salvation, that followed Jesus ascension. Water baptism is one of our distinctive but we fail to understand & focus on the deeper meaning behind its representation...
- d. God's redemptive plan was not done w/ the coming of JC, God w/ us, and his life, his death & the resurrection...this was only phase 1, to prepare God's people to experience the next step of God's redemptive plan...God in us through the advent of the HS.
 - i. Just before his ascension, Jesus said to his disciples **Act 1:4** "do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised..." other passages referring to the HS as a gift from the Father: **2:38, 10:45, 11:17**
 - ii. How did this happen?
 - 1. For 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus met w/ his disciples
 - 2. On the 40th day → he ascension + exaltation, 10 days later, he poured down the HS on his disciples, which marks the beginning of the church....and God now dwelling in his people
- e. God w/ us so that God in us: God was w/ us so that God could be in us until the 2nd coming
 - i. This is as important as the death & resurrection of Jesus...but for some reason, we don't explore the meaning and significance of this gifts of God...The HS remain obscured, misunderstood and our relationship w/ him, well....
- f. So, today, there might not be much new material. Mainly a reminder & an incentive to renew with the HS for 2020

2. What might we gain/benefit from the HS by seeking him and following after him? What does the HS does for us as believers, how does he manifest his presence in our lives? I want to cover 4 ways the HS manifest his presence in our lives today...there is more, but....

- a. **The HS gives us Assurance conviction, affirmation: assurance of what?**
 - i. Of the presence of God w/ you & That you are a child of God
 - ii. There is a series of verses that tells us that by the HS we cry Aba Father and that the HS testifies to our spirits that we are children of God, no doubt about it. this is a direct action of God w/in our spirit
 - 1. **Ro 8:15-16**, Gal 4:6-7, 2Co 1:22,
 - iii. Not only that, but Ro5:5 tells us that by the HS God has poured out his love into our heart. And reminds us of it from time to time through the Word and also through the direct action & work of the HS
 - iv. These are more than intellectual knowledge, i.e. something to know in our our mind...it is a heart spiritual experience of the living God, something to know experientially. In apologetics, it is the arg from exp. Nothing external will provide that...
 - v. Do you lack assurance? Do you lack assurance about who you are? Or that God loves you? or even about the existence of God? Do you live in constant doubts?
 - 1. Maybe the Spirit has been quenched in your life!
 - 2. Doubts are normal from time to time, and there is a way to deal with that and be strengthened but there is nothing like the full presence of the HS to eradicate them and trump doubts

b. The HS gives us Supernatural abilities –spiritual gifts, super power for those...

- i. The HS gives us new abilities we did not have before or even maybe enhancement of natural talents we had before
- ii. 1Co 12 & 14 covers that very well among other passages
- iii. I don't want to spend too much time on this because we are familiar with the topic. Just want to say a few things here
 1. **1Co 12:6-7**: That we all have received at least one gifts **1Co 12:6-7**, Ro 12:6
 - a. The purpose of the gifts and their exercises is 3 fold:
(1) Glorify God, (2) serve the body of Christ and (3) to call attention to God & authenticate the Gospel message
 2. (something I realized a few months ago): that the gifts are not independent of the Spirit:
 - a. they are "the manifestation" (the visible disclosure) of the Spirit's presence in our life providing the ability & passion to exercise them
 - i. Like the smoke of a fire....
 - ii. The way we relate to the Spirit may have an effect on the operation of the gift
 3. Maybe we don't see the power and full expression & manifestation of the Spirit in the church today because we have quenched the Spirit in one way or another: sinful lifestyle practices, repression/despisement of certain gifts, having other gods in our lives,
 - a. **1 thess 5:19, Eph 4:30** → quenching, grieving...
 - b. So, we don't see the full power of the Spirit in our lives, in the life of the church.
 - c. What if God has more in mind that we see?
 - d. What if all the gifts available & given to the early church are still available today?
 - e. Can we tell the HS how to manifest Himself? Who are we to say that the HS should or should not manifest Hself like this or that, when we read that he is sovereign and gives as he determines? **1Co 12:11**

c. New desires & power against sin & temptation, & our sinful nature

- i. **Gal 5:16-18** A desire/a pleasure to please God rather than pleasing Oself/sinful nature: the Spirit is called the Spirit of holiness as opposed to the evil sprit. This is central to his role in our life
 1. 2 things to talk about here: desire & holiness
- ii. Desire: This is key! For w/o a desire/passion, everything becomes a choir, duty, and obligation,
 1. Sometimes this is how it has to be, but not for the long run: Ro 14:17 → burden and even the Xian life becomes boring...
 2. But not supposed to be like that. the HS provide a desire to serve and for holiness
- iii. Holiness: this is the focus of the HS, he has desire opposing the flesh! Why?
 1. So that we can experience the presence of God and the blessings of his presence starting w/ joy, peace, fulfillment...
 2. Sin is what spoils our fellowship w/ the Lord
 3. So his role is to lead us into sanctification
 - a. Pruning us of the things that are obstacles to our fellowship and the spiritual blessings he wants to pour into our life
 4. This was our theme concept a few years back **2Co 3:17-18**, "being transformed into his likeness from glory to glory..."

d. Character/personalities change & transformation (Ga 5:22-23)

- i. The HS brings fire & passion into our life and new dispositions towards God, others, circumstances, etc...through the fruit of the Spirit:
 1. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
- ii. We are not talking about strictly surface behavior but deep character disposition into our should
- iii. **Ro 14:17** tells us that the KofG is not about do's and don'ts or morality devoted of real holiness but about joy, peace and righteousness in the HS.
- iv. This is the full experience of Xianity, of the presence of the HS in our life
- v. Now, this is a growth process but, when we are not there, he helps remove the obstacles in our hearts towards what he wants to accomplish
- vi. If we find the Xian life boring, maybe it is because we lack the presence of the Spirit, or not in fellowship w/ him/

3. What is our role or how can we experience God in a fuller sense

Don't be indifferent, or ignore him or forsake him. Our role is 3 fold:

- a. Walk after him, follow him: Gal 5:16
- b. Put Yself under his rule & authority of the Spirit: Ro 6: 11-13
- c. Be filled w/ his presence: Eph 5:18

4. Conclusion

- a. These are 4 things you might benefit from the HS, name them
 - i. But there is more....Ex. healing, encouragement, guidance, direction,
- b. Where are you at right now?
 - i. Do you lack assurance?
 - ii. Do you find the Xian life boring? Empty?
 - iii. Do you live to please Yself or sinful nature?
 - iv. Do you feel stocked in old habits?
- c. Maybe it is because you don't have the HS
 - vii. In that case, I invite you to receive him...
- e. Or maybe it is because you broke fellowship w/ the HS by
 - i. Entertaining a sinful life style
 1. Having your heart more attached to the creation rather than the creator....things we love more, more attached than God → idols