**Galatians Week 3**

**Day 1**

This week’s sermon was about living in partnership with the Holy Spirit. In order to do that, we must know who He is. We will spend this week’s devotions focusing on the Spirit. We will explore Acts 1 &2, and John 14-16.

Someone’s last words are supposed to be their greatest. These are not actually Jesus last words, but they are His last words before leaving earth. Read Act 1:4-11and use the SOAP method to study it for yourself. I want you to see what you see. Remember **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, and **P**rayer.

* In verse 8 Jesus made a promise concerning what would happen to His followers when the Holy Spirit came upon them, what was that? Be specific and be thorough.
* In verse 5 Jesus said, “…but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” What does He mean by “baptized” with the Holy Spirit?
* In verses 9-11, what were the disciples doing, and what did the angels tell them?

This passage is important because it is the occasion of Jesus not only promising the Holy Spirit but also telling us His purpose. When Jesus makes a promise, we can trust it. He didn’t come that day. It would be on the day of Pentecost. But Jesus did tell us the purpose of the Spirit. 1) To empower the disciples, and 2) to make them witnesses of Jesus. Our job as Christ followers is to be an everyday witness of Jesus. We are to be a Spirit empowered witness to the lost. We are to be Spirit empowered witness to the church. We are to tell the story of Jesus as we tell our own Jesus story.

Jesus said that His followers would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The word baptized was used in the first century to describe the dying of cloth. Linen cloth would be submerged into a tub of dye. When it came out it was forever a different color. If you have been baptized into Jesus, you are a different person than you were. The Spirit forever colors you. If you listen to Him and obey Him like Jesus, He will completely redefine you. This is the process of growth we call sanctification. Sanctification is progressively becoming more and more like Jesus. The Spirit is a witness of Jesus in you, and you then become that witness of Jesus to others.

Verses 9-11 have always been somewhat humorous to me. It describes the disciples seeing Jesus ascend into Heaven. As they watched Him go, they stood there with their mouths open. After He was gone, they stayed that way. The angels simply said, “Get to work.” You may be confused by this. The best way to understand is to do. So, get to work!

**Day 2**

What does it look like when the Holy Spirit comes into a person and is at work in them? This is an important question, and it can be answered by looking at a few markers. At the end of the devotion today, I want you to ask yourself if the marks of the Holy Spirit are on you.

Read Acts 2:1-13. Again, study this yourself using SOAP. My hope is that, if you struggle with daily time in God’s word, at the end of these devotions you will know how to spend time with the Spirit through His word.

What are these markers of the work of the Holy Spirit? Please understand, this is not exhaustive. It is simply what I see in this one passage of scripture. Yet, I think these markers hold true throughout the book of Acts and in the world today.

1. **The Holy Spirit is noticeable in you.**

You may not hear a mighty rushing wind or see tongues of fire, but you will notice something different. Sin will begin to make you feel guilty. Soon, you will change some of your behavior for that very reason. There will be a desire to help others, to do good. There will be a desire to be with the church. There should also be a desire to tell others what happened to you when you met Jesus.

1. **The Holy Spirit works through the local church.**

I hear many say that they don’t need to be involved in the church. This is simply not true if you know Jesus. You are part of the body of Christ. If you remember the Adams Family, one character named thing was a disembodied hand. That is a pretty good picture of a child of God outside of the church. The Spirit works through the church. He works through us individually, but He pulls us together for the work to be done. You cannot walk with Christ outside of fellowship with the church.

1. **The Spirit works in each of us personally.**

Notice that the flames of fire rested on each disciple individually. This was not just the 12. There were around 120 people in the room. It was the whole church gathered together, but the Spirit rested on each one individually and gave them a language to speak so that the crowd outside could clearly hear the message of Christ. You have been placed where you are so that the people around you can see Jesus.

1. **The Spirit will draw people to Jesus from all nations and all walks of life.**

There were 15 countries or regions listed in this passage. They were all in Jerusalem. They all heard the message in their own language. They all had the opportunity to respond. If the Spirit is working in you people will see Jesus. They will not all believe, but some will.

**Day 3**

We have talked about who the Holy Spirit is, and I gave a brief description of Him in the message on September 21st, but there is so much more. I want to take the next few days and look at John chapters 14-16 and see what Jesus said about this mysterious third member of the trinity.

Read John 14:12-17. This is a short passage of scripture, but it is packed full. Again, read it for yourself and apply SOAP to it. Let the Spirit of God teach you as you read. Then consider these questions.

* What does Jesus promise concerning our work as His followers in verse 12? Does this describe you?
* There is another promise in verses 13 & 14, what is it?
* What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name?
* According to verse 15, how can I know that I love Jesus?
* What does all of this have to do with the Holy Spirit?
* List the ways that Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in verses 16 & 17.

Jesus promise concerning the work we will do with Him is grounded in the Holy Spirit. We can do none of it without Him. I won’t take time to get into it fully here, but Jesus laid aside His Godly power and authority when He came to earth. The work He did was through the Holy Spirit in Him. He modeled for us the way we have been empowered to live. I will know that I love Jesus if I keep His commands. But we are seeing in Galatians that we can’t keep His commands on our own. It is only through the Holy Spirit within us that we are able to keep His commands and know that we love Him.

Think of how Jesus describes the Spirit. ***Another counselor***, one like Jesus. A counselor is an advocate and a comforter. He is someone who is on our side. He has our success as followers of Jesus in mind. A comforter is someone who comes along beside us to help when we are struggling. He is a life coach like no other. Also, He will never leave us.

He is also the ***Spirit of Truth***. We live in a world where truth is being turned upside down. People will twist truth like a pretzel. But we have the Spirit of Truth living within us. He will guide us into all the truth. What an advantage that gives us.

Last, the world can’t know Him, but you do know Him. The world can’t know Him because it doesn’t know Jesus. But because you know Jesus you also have the Spirit. He is here for us to know. We can grow in our relationship with Him. What a gift.

**Day 4**

John 16:7-11 is the part we may not like. It is the part of the Spirit at work in us that some of our friends and family may not like. However, if we will allow the Spirit to do this work in us we will know the joy that can only come through holiness, and through a right relationship with Jesus.

If you had lived in the 1st century and were able to be one of Jesus’ disciples, do you think you would know it if you had a sinful attitude around Jesus? Of course you would. This is the promise Jesus made concerning the Holy Spirit. He is God in us, so we are always with Him. Consider this as you read John 16:7-11. Apply SOAP to this. I always want you to read the word for yourself and let the Spirit lead you into the truth. Then consider these questions.

* How do you feel about being convicted? Is it something that you welcome into your daily life, or do you naturally try to avoid it?
* What do you think God’s motive in the convicting work of the Holy Spirit?
* If I am forgiven of my sin, why does the Spirit do this work of convicting me?
* What does Jesus mean by sin, righteousness, and judgment?

Conviction sounds like a bad thing, but it is intended for our good. There is shame involved; however, shame can be a good thing. Shame is pain for our conscience. Physical pain makes me aware that something is wrong with my body. It needs attention. Shame tells me that something is wrong in my soul, and I must pay attention to it.

The convicting work of the Holy Spirit is done to shine light on the places that need to be exposed. It is a work of love, not punishment. Shame can be carried too far. We often hold onto shame. We allow shame to cripple us and keep us from moving on. A truth about God that will never change is His love for you. He will correct you because He loves you. The correction is there to mature you, allowing you to see the sin in your life, address it, ask forgiveness and correct it. It is done to allow you to grow. Embrace that.

When you look at verse 9 you see that Jesus is mainly speaking to the lost world. He convicts the world of sin because they do not know Him. He is pointing the world to righteousness, and warning of the judgement to come. There is not a soul in this world that Jesus doesn’t love. He loves us enough to hurt our feelings.

Day 5

John 16:12-15 is the last scripture for this week. Read it and apply SOAP to it and then consider these questions.

* How does Jesus describe the work of the Holy Spirit here?
* How can this impact your life?
* According to verse 16, what is one way we can be sure that it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us?

Jesus called Him the Spirit of Truth. In fact, the Spirit is all about the Truth. He will never lead us into anything false.

Jesus also says that the Spirit will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. This is a picture of the unity within the Trinity. God is one, He is also three individuals. However, there is no conflict or confusion with Him. All three work to serve and reveal each other. This is why Jesus says, “He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

The other side of the coin for verse 14 is that whatever the Spirit is leading us to do will bring glory to Jesus. In this way we will know if a thought or feeling is coming from the Spirit or not. Will this bring glory to Jesus? Is my motive in this to bring glory to Jesus? If it is, then go ahead. If you are uncertain, then don’t move until you are.

With this in mind, I encourage you read Galatians 3:8-29. I encourage you to read this passage a few times. It is not an easy passage to understand. It needs some time for reflection. Apply SOAP to this scripture between now and Sunday morning. Ask the Spirit to reveal the truth to you concerning it. Write down any questions you may have. I love to answer questions about the Bible. You may have a question that I haven’t considered. This is good for both us.

See you Sunday!