

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is!
(Turnpike Wesleyan - September 6, 2020)

Scripture Text: Acts 1:8

“But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Introduction

Many times people look upon God’s handiwork and only see the outside manifestations... never the miracle that lays within. It works that way with many things, whether it be the miracle of the birth of a new ***baby*** or the miracle of the birth of a new ***Christian***.

There are many who see just the outside framework and miss the miracle that lays within. Such is the case when it comes to ***witnessing*** and being ***connected*** with Christ.

There are those who believe that the Holy Spirit is some kind of inanimate object – like the crib that held that baby - and they see only the crib not the miracle within.

Theologically these people accept the idea that God’s Holy Spirit can ***live*** within them, but they don’t think that the Spirit does very much, thus they miss out on the miracle and the ***power*** that God’s Spirit brings to us.

The Bible tells us that the Spirit of God does many things within us: a) Helps us in our ***prayers***. B) Helps us to ***understand*** the deep things of God’s Word. C) ***Guides*** us. D) ***Teaches*** us. E) And ***empowers*** us.

But perhaps the most intriguing thing the Holy Spirit was sent here to do is implied in Acts 1:8. Notice the text says that the disciples ***first*** receive the Holy Spirit - and then they became ***witnesses***.

It’s my belief that part of our frustration in our witnessing can come from not understanding the pivotal role that the Holy Spirit can play in helping us share our faith.

One of the primary jobs of the Holy Spirit is convicting people of their ***sin***, of their need for ***righteousness*** and the impending ***judgment***. In other words: you and I don’t have to convict people (change their hearts) with regard to salvation. That’s the Spirit’s job. According to Acts 1:8 we are simply witnesses.

Let me try to illustrate. In a court room, there’s a ***judge***, a ***prosecutor***, a defense ***attorney***,

a defendant, & witnesses. Who gives testimony in the court room? The witnesses do. Do the witnesses prosecute the defendant? No! Do the witnesses convict the defendant? No!

Witnesses (pause) witness... and they do their best to give honest and true testimony because they realize that the verdict may hinge on how well they witness. But their only job is testifying.

Convincing people of their sins and of the need of righteousness and the closeness of God's judgment is the Spirit's job - not ours!

Notice the implication there. Unless someone preaches (witnesses), people cannot hear the Gospel. If they don't hear, they can't believe, if they don't believe they can't call and if they don't call they won't be saved. The salvation of the people we care about hinges on our faithfulness in witnessing.

Here are some final thoughts on how the Holy Spirit can empower us as we share our faith.

He can help guide us to people we should talk to.

Another thing the Spirit can do is give us boldness in our witnessing.

Wrap Up

Thus, we need to: PRAY that God's Spirit prepares the hearts of people we want to talk to.

TRUST the Holy Spirit to do His part.

LISTEN for God to guide you to the people He wants you to speak with.

And SPEAK about what God has done and what He means to you with boldness and creativity.