

The Holy Spirit 3: The Spirit and the Church

Sermon

Hobart, June 24th, 2012

Devonport, June 30th, 2012

Launceston, July 1st, 2012

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Scripture Readings:

Acts 2:32-47

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‘The LORD said to my Lord,

“Sit in the place of honor at my right hand

³⁵ until I humble your enemies,

making them a footstool under your feet.”’^{*}

³⁶ “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

³⁷ Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles^{*}—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

The Believers Form a Community

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper^{*}), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity^{*}—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.¹

^{*} Ps 110:1.

^{*} Or *and to people far in the future*; Greek reads *and to those far away*.

^{*} Greek *the breaking of bread*; also in 2:46.

^{*} Or *and sincere hearts*.

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Ac 2:32-47). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

INTRODUCTION:

I. CHRISTMAS AND EASTER

A. REMIND US OF WHO JESUS WAS AND IS

1. How he came, why he came
 - a) And what he accomplished not only in his life, but ultimately in his sacrificial death, resurrection and ascension

A. JESUS CAME TO

1. Reveal God, his love and desire to include us in his life, his family, his kingdom
2. To share in his life and work of recreating, reconciling, and relating
 - a) Of living together in love, peace and harmony forever

B. THE SEASON OF PENTECOST REMINDS US OF THE WORK JESUS CONTINUES TO DO THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Jesus sent the Spirit to be another comforter
2. To continue on his work of revealing the Father, reconciling us to him, and leading us in living in relationship with him and with the rest of creation

C. WHAT WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACT AND EVENT THE HOLY SPIRIT INITIATED AFTER JESUS' RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION?

1. The creation of the church, the body of Christ

S.P.S:

A. TODAY WE ARE GOING TO TAKE AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHURCH

1. What it is, and why God created it

2. And hopefully learn a bit more about the importance of our role in it

B. PRAYER

BODY:

C. WE READ ABOUT WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT CAUSED TO HAPPEN IN JERUSALEM, DURING PENTECOST, IN ACTS 2;

Acts 2:1-4

2 On the day of Pentecost* all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,* as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

D. THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE ALL THE BELIEVERS PRESENT

1. The ability to communicate in other languages
 - a) A dramatic gift enabling those who believed in Jesus to communicate to others who had gathered there from many other nations
 - b) What were they enabled to communicate?
 - (1) **The good news about salvation through Jesus Christ**
 - c) This phenomenon caused a great stir among the crowds

E. PETER STEPS UP TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING ON

1. He first talks about what has been happening

Acts 2:14-17a

¹⁴ Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no

* The Festival of Pentecost came 50 days after Passover (when Jesus was crucified).

* Or *in other tongues*.

mistake about this. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. ¹⁶ No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days,' God says,
'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.'

2. This was all according to God's plan to reveal himself and his plan to reconcile all mankind to himself through Jesus Christ

a) The Holy Spirit is the one who was sent to communicate this good news

b) And the Holy Spirit uses the believers in Jesus, his followers, to participate in the continuance of Jesus' work of communicating the gospel

Acts 2:32-47

3. Peter goes on to talk about "this Jesus", who he was, and what he accomplished in his life, death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father

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³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Becoming baptized in the name of Jesus, symbolized their new relationship with God.

a) Their being forgiven for living apart and against God, and their being reconciled and brought into the body of Christ

5. They received the Holy Spirit as a gift to join them in God’s life, and equip them to share what they had received through Christ

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6. Being baptized included being added to the church

a) And receiving the Holy Spirit

7. The Holy Spirit bound them together with Jesus and thus the Father, and with one another

a) Being a Christian means being part of the body, not living separately

b) It means fellowshiping, communing, partnering with the Father, Son and Spirit, and with each other

c) It means using the understanding, the gifts, the guidance and strength the Spirit gives to serve Jesus, by serving one another, and being lights to the world

The Believers Form a Community

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F. WE SEE HERE THE IMPACT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. In binding the members together with Christ
2. And with one another
3. We see them living the Godly life
 - a) The life the Father, Son and Spirit live
 - b) The life of love, of *koinonia*, *communion*, *partnership*, *fellowship*,
4. Learning, living and working together humbly, caringly, devotedly, loyally, compassionately, energetically, harmoniously

G. IN ALL THIS

1. we see the unity of the Holy Spirit with the Father's purpose of bringing us all back into relationship with him, through the Son
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CONCLUSION:

A. CLEARLY THEN, THE HOLY SPIRIT PLAYS AN IMMENSE AND VITAL ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

1. In its origin and in its fulfilling its final purpose
2. The Spirit teaches us of God, because he is God, God with us
3. He teaches us who we are in the light of who God is, and what God is doing with us, for us, and through us
3. And that purpose is all about God being a relationship, and inviting and restoring us into relationship with him and others

B. PRAYER
