

The Greatest Gift Of God That We Seldom Know (experience?)

Acts 13: 1-5

Last week – The Greatest Misunderstanding of the New Testament Church – Grace

Galatians 2: 20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me,”

1. Jesus not only gave himself for us, He gave Himself to us!

But to experience Him in us, we too must give ourselves to Him!

Romans 8: 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the **Spirit**.

Spirit – 4151 – Pneuma – breathe (who walk not in the flesh but after His breath)

Romans 8: 14-16 “For as many as are led by the Spirit (breathe) of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: but ye have received the Spirit of ADOPTION, WHEREBY WE CRY ABBA FATHER. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

2. God’s Spirit lets us know we are in Christ... therefore we are free, free to be God’s precious children, free to walk with God as our Parents Adam and Eve once did, as we experience the Breathe of God.

John 14: 16-18 “...he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever.” Even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive , because it seeth him not, neither knowth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

John 14: 26-28 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you...”

John 15: 25-26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceed from the Father, he shall testify of me.”

John 16: 7-14...

Comforter – 3875 – Parakleto – one who is called to assist us, such as a legal aid, an advocate... Christ as a person but in Spirit. **Our Assistance in life!**

1. He will comfort us!
2. He will abide with us forever!
3. This is how we get to know God, because He will live inside of us!
4. He will teach us daily!
5. He will bring to remembrance the things we need to remember!
6. He will give us peace!
7. He will give us courage!
8. He will testify to the Truth!
9. He will testify of Jesus in us!
10. He will declare Righteousness and judgment!

3. Because we are in Christ, and he is in us, we have Jesus in Spirit accompanying us in every situation or do we?

Acts 13: 2-3 The power of the New testament leaders had come to realize this and sought to tap into this power... "**As they ministered to the Lord** and fasted, the Holy Spirit said,..."

Chapter 6: 1- the conflict was on in the Church but they would not allow themselves to be pulled away from Prayer and ministry of the word... if they had a problem, they prayed... Acts 6: 4, 6

The battle was on, the Battle was heavy: They Prayed!

They prayed, they prayed, they prayed, the Church was added unto, the Church multiplied, etc.

They struggled through Persecution, Corruption (Chapter 5); Persecution, Division (Chapter 6); Persecution (Chapter 7); etc. But through it all the Church grew and the power of God was ever present, guiding, filling, empowering, etc. Why? They discovered a secret – they ministered to God!

The devil does not need to destroy us, he just needs to discourage and especially distract us!

Remember, the commitment of a few will secure the blessing of so many with the Spirit! But there needs to be a few!

4. When the Holy Spirit and man collides!

Have you ever been a part of a divine arrangement?

- **He is sent for this very purpose... Ephesians 3: 20** “Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”
- **He sends us for a Divine work... Acts 13: 2** *He chooses people for His work...*
- **He communicates with His servants... Rev. 2: 17** *The Holy Spirit communicates with His servants.*
- **He searches and reveals things we would never know otherwise...1st Corinthians 2: 9-12** *He searches out the deep things of God and reveals them to us...*
- **He makes Him real... Ephesians 3: 16-17** *He makes Christ real to us...*
- **He is Jesus' Spirit with us... Romans 8: 9** *He is even called the Spirit of Christ...*
- **He has been assigned to us... Romans 8: 29** *His ultimate job is to conform us to the image of the Son...*
- **He is our prayer partner... (vs 26)** “the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. He that searcheth the hearts knoweth the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”
- **He is our transforming friend... Romans 12: 1-2** “I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. And be no conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....”

If we are to experience the **Holy** Spirit:

1. We must be a praying people!
2. A People of the Word!
3. A People about God's business!
4. We must be a people bent on Holiness!
5. We must understand that we need more than anything else to unleash the power and product of God in our world! **These people were walking in supernatural times!**
6. We must seek to experience, enjoy and embrace God at work in our lives!
7. Our Greatest Desire after we are in Christ **is to live in such a way that we are ministering to God** and in turn God will work in our lives!

Remember the words of Jesus “My father's house is to be a house of Prayer!”

The spirit of God among us is what Jesus came to deliver. This is the ultimate Christian walk! We must seek the pure involvement of God in our lives, not some counter-fit or conjured up experience, without Holiness and without true interaction, without true power and presence of God. If this is to be, we must be like the Apostles and **Minister to God!**

How does one do this? This is the question that you and I must answer!

But we do know this:

Galatians 5: 22 When the Holy Spirit is present there will be qualities about us that will declare it, no matter the circumstances:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is

1) love

2) joy

3) peace

4) longsuffering

5) gentleness

6) goodness

7) faith

8) meekness

9) temperance

against such there is no law.”

When the Spirit is present, it produces a product that declares the personhood of Jesus because He is Jesus in us!

Billy Graham was a man of prayer, therefore he was a man full of power

The New Testament Church was a people of Prayer, so those days were fill with power!

Questions:

1. Are you in Christ?

2. Is Christ in you?

3. Is the Holy Spirit evident in your daily life?

4. What are you doing to court God, minister to God?

5. Can you give me a story when God and you had a proclamation moment?