

Acts 3:1-10

The Spirit indwelt church is actively ready to engage with The Work of the Holy Spirit at any given moment.

INTRO

Arguably, one of the most distinct challenges a hunter faces is....**the wind**. Using elk hunting as an example...**Many times wind** can be a **friend** or a **help** to you **by giving you** awareness of game in the proximity. **A hunter may be walking along** for some time....**seeing no sign**..NOTHING spotted or heard....**FEELING RATHER discouraged** and then **BAM!** Right in your face a **big whiff** of the scent of elk. **Instantly all senses** get **revived** and **you are on alert**. ELK are **in the area**. Immediately responding by **steering** your **focus in the direction** the **scent came** from....**looking** and **getting ready**..contemplating within..**what course of action** should you take or **not take**. I'm very thankful for the wind's aide provided in those moments... YET....**this same very wind** once **working with me** can unexpectedly **SHIFT**, **SWIRL**....**change it's direction** to then work against me and **in favor of the elk**. And though there **ARE some patterns** to the **general flow of air** throughout the course of a day...their still, *very much so*, **is an unpredictability to it**.

And it really **rules the outcome of your hunt**. '**The wind blows where it wishes**' ...It could provide **advanced notice** of approaching **GAME**.....**remain on your face** all the way **to the point of harvesting** an animal...OR, *on it's one whim*..**at any given moment**...**switch up** and **GIVE CLEAR WARING** to the elk that **danger** is in the **woods** and **what direction to run away from**. '**The wind blows where it wishes**'

For those here **who haven't experienced hunting** you **likely have experienced the affects** of **catching the aroma** of fresh **baked** goods, a **BBQ**, gourmet **coffee being brewed**...and so on. **Walking along somewhere**..NOT in the **search of OR interest** in **something to eat or drink** but then, *all of a sudden*...**BAM!**...**a whiff of something savory** **grabs** your **attention**... **powerfully sometimes**,...causing you to divert from your original course. **Prior to smelling those pleasing aromas**,..you weren't **thinking about a savory beverage** or **TASTY BITE**...**but now you are**.....your salivary glands are activated and your stomach starts grumbling for that appetizing food you **now have pictured in your mind** to enjoy eating. **If the wind didn't carry those fragrances** along to be **taken in through your nose** you wouldn't be looking around seeking it's source. **Where is that coming from?**

The **unpredictability** and **effectiveness** of the **wind**. **JESUS** used this characteristic about the wind to describe the **work of the Holy Spirit doing the work** of **regeneration** in the **heart of man**.

He stated it this way in the **gospel of John** (chapter 3) as **Jesus is describing to Nicodemus** how **one must be Born again** for them to **be able to see AND enter the Kingdom of God**. (**John 3:1-8**) ...*he says*...."**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. YET **we**, THE CHURCH, **are the instruments through which the Spirit empowers our witness of Jesus Christ** to accomplish this work. **We have the great honor and privilege TO ENGAGE WITH The Work of the Holy Spirit SAVING SOULS.** Participating with God in the Work of Salvation. **But if the work of the Spirit is likened to the unpredictability of the wind, HOW DO WE, indwelt with the Spirit of God, engage effectively?**

To always be actively ready to engage with the Work of the Holy Spirit at any given moment.

The **Spirit indwelt church** is to **be always actively ready to ENGAGE with The Work of the Holy Spirit at any given moment.**

This **engagement with the Work of the Holy Spirit is seen in our text given attention to this morning (Acts 3:1-10)**

These **verses provide the account of the 1ST recorded miracle God performed through the apostles.** Likely **not the first miracle DONE by them for In** verse **43** of the previous chapter...**chapter 2** it says that **"....many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles."** So such things were happening...**but this is the 1ST recorded in scripture of which we, THE CHURCH, have the benefit to learn from for it illustrates powerfully the work of the Spirit through the church in bringing NEW LIFE to one who is without hope.** There is **nothing extraordinary about this day prior to the miracle that takes place. It was an ordinary day.**

Then, **as the wind blows,** one **helpless and hopeless is given new life and wonder and amazement follow to the glory of God.**

We'll see this illustration take shape in 5 WAYS:

BODY:

The first way...

1. Having an ordinary day in the life of a believer

The **opening verse in chapter 3 of Acts** says **"Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour."** **Peter and John** having an ordinary day in a life of a believer. **We recall from last weeks teaching that this was not a chance VISIT to the temple...no this was a regular part of the church doing life together. (Verse 46) of the previous chapter..."And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts." ...They were devoted to the apostle's teaching and the fellowship or you could say THE CHURCH...devoted to the church...to ONE ANOTHER. Breaking bread together and praying together...studying God's word together.** This was their regular course of life.

And **there is nothing out of the ordinary on this particular walk up to the temple. This was the norm for them living as Christians. It's the ninth hour, 3 in the afternoon, and Peter and John are going to the temple as they normally do....to pray. And while on their way up it says in verse 2-3 that (read from Bible).** So, on there way up there is a lame man..**lame from birth, who was carried up daily...daily carried up to the temple and laid at the gate to be**

asking for alms from all who were entering the temple. What are the chances that Peter and John SAW HIM before? I'd say extremely high if not certain. What did verse 46 of chapter 2 say again?... "and day by day...attending the temple together..." The lame man was laid at the gate of the temple **how often?** DAILY. I have **no question in my mind** that **they were quite familiar with this beggar who would be asking for alms, charitable gifts to be given by all who were on their way into the TEMPLE** and **this would include Peter and John**. SO WHY THIS DAY? **Why this day** did Peter and John ACT to **engage him the way they did?** WHY? **We don't know. NO reason is given...BUT THEY DO ACT...they do ENGAGE HIM... 'as the wind blows where it wishes so it is with the Holy Spirit.'** Peter and John are prompted to act ON THIS DAY and **engage him, not by the giving of alms, but by commanding him to RISE UP and WALK in the name of Jesus.**

Now let's back up a bit *before we go any further*. AGAIN CHURCH. This was an **ordinary day** for Peter and John...these **early christians we have as examples**. Like the rest of the church, they **were devoted to God's word** (the apostles teachings), **devoted to the Fellowship** (the Church) they were DEVOTED to **Prayer**. They had all things in common... **meeting any need within the church** and sharing meals together. **True Christianity. Steadfastness** and **Faithfulness**. Key attributes of God seen in Christian living. **It's not bells and whistles...NOT a circus show....NOT fame and glory....not seeker friendly programs** but STEADFASTNESS and FAITHFULNESS.

Our God is a God **full of mercy and grace**,...abounding in.... **steadfast love** and **faithfulness**....His people likewise, as His redeemed image bearers, **display that to the watching world**. It's displayed in your home as a **husband**, a **wife**, as a **father**, and **mother**....it's **displayed** in the **committing to**, invested in, **servng a LOCAL CHURCH BODY**...it's seen in your **diligence** and **focused labor** in the **work place**..in the **class room**. STEADFASTNESS....FAITHFULNESS...**True marks** of Christian living.

And in this normal christian living the **Holy Spirit blows as He pleases...grabbing your attention**..like the scent of elk in the woods or fresh roasted coffee. **The Holy Spirit**, who indwells every true believer, **is moving to work** and **inviting us along** to engage with Him in doing the **impossible**. **We see this with Peter and John, in-dwelt with the Spirit of God, whose attention is grabbed** on this **particular day** for **no other reason than** they were prompted by the **Spirit**. **Peter and John's attention is demanded of them to engage this lame man...who is asking for charitable hand outs....who is absolutely helpless. With no hope at all.**

Which leads us to our next aspect taking shape of **engaging with the work of the Holy Spirit**.

2. Helplessness and Hopelessness encountered.

Now let's read about this encounter....HOW they engage this lame man. (verses 4-5) **Peter and John...seeing what they saw likely every time on their way into the temple. The lame man begging**. Perhaps in **times past** they **have given him handouts before**. I don't think it far fetched to say so. **It's not recorded**...but it would be consisted with **obedient christian living** of which they were doing. But nevertheless, *this time...this time..* the **Spirit moves them to do the IMPOSSIBLE. And they begin...by getting his focused attention.**

How important that is? **To be sure the one you are witnessing to is engaged with you.** PETER looks intently on him and tells him to “look at us.” The lame man probably has a type of **general gazing look** upon **all the people passing by** whom he is **asking alms of.** Hoping for **people to take pity on him** and give him something....**anything by which he can be helped by.** AND **as charitable gifts are given,** he likely nods in appreciation with words of thank you expressed...**to then move right onto to the next passer-by to ask alms of.** Are you getting the picture with me?

Well PETER, **moved by the Spirit to engage this man..essentially says,** “Hey, you...look at us.” “Give us your attention...YOUR focused attention”...**to which he does, he fixed his attention** on them **expecting from their motioning to do so to receive something from them.** **You can almost picture** those eyes of his lighting up some with the hopes of what it is they are about to give him. **Eyes that for all his life has seen the world without the ability to STAND and WALK AROUND.** This man was lame from BIRTH. We learn later (**Acts 4**) that **he was over 40yrs of age...That’s me...that’s my age.** A man my age who needed to be carried where ever he went. His **legs are probably atrophied from never having use his entire life.** They didn’t have wheelchairs back then..he was **absolutely dependent upon others for his care.** There is no work he could do to make a living. He **was laid at the gate of the temple DAILY to beg for provisions.** Which notable recognition should be given to the ones in his life who faithfully did this for him. **Every day...carrying him up there and then carrying him back HOME to then do it all over again the next day.** If he is **unable to stand...let alone walk..**consider how many other aides are needed for him to exist. **Many.** Those who brought him daily to the temple (*un-named here in Acts*) are **godly examples for those who are the caretakers of a loved one.**

Caring for a loved one who is disabled in any way is a **very God honoring act of love.**

The **picture provided by this man is none other than Hopelessness...&.....Helplessness.** That **is all that was seen** through this man’s eyes **as far back as he can remember - Hopelessness.....&...Helplessness.** A fitting portrayal of every man’s state of condition as a **unregenerate sinner.** (**Ephesians 2:12**) ALL of us, **prior to salvation** “.....**having no hope and without God in the world.**” Unable to do anything about it in our own strength. **Helpless... Hopeless...”dead in our trespass and sins.”** (**Ephesians 2:1**) (*PAUSE*)...The **valley of dry bones** spoken of in **Ezekiel 37** **augments this lifelessness all the more of one who is yet to be BORN AGAIN.** **Let’s turn there** and read this account. (**Ezekiel 37:1-14**)

So, **like Ezekiel,** PETER and JOHN ‘**with the hand of the Lord upon them**’ **are brought out in the Spirit of the Lord...brought out of their regular course into the temple to stop....STOP..and engage this helpless...hopeless lame man who on the inside was NOT lame BUT Spiritually dead...VOID of any life.** Not just a corpse but bones that are dry with no residue of life whatsoever on them. **Less than nothingness in regards to life in Christ.** **And so,** **having his fixed attention they have HOPE to share....hope that is not a worldly hope but an everlasting, life changing HOPE.** **The illustration takes further shape....number 3..**

3. Hope is shared in the name of Jesus of Nazareth

(verse 6)...read..Peter, FILLED and ENGAGED with the Holy Spirit now speaks to this lame man who's focused attention he now has. Looking right into his eyes...the windows of his soul...Peter says "I know what you are asking for. I know the needs you have that are very real....I know you are HELPLESS and HOPELESS and dependent upon hand outs to meet needs each day...BUT I have something to offer that is FAR GREATER than ANYTHING THE WORLD as to offer for hope. MONEY may buy you food and shelter for a time...BUT only JESUS can bring new life. His blood has purchased that which silver and gold cannot. HOPE in the one true living God. The forgiveness of your sins, REDEMPTION, reconciliation to God. Salvation from the wrath to come. I don't have silver and gold, but I do have Jesus of Nazareth as my Lord, God and Savior. Him I offer to you and in His name BELIEVE and rise up and walk in this newness of life available in and through him." I so appreciate how Peter meets him where he is at...and notice how POINTED and SELECTIVE Peter is in sharing the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus of Nazareth. Not just any Jesus but THIS JESUS...the Jesus who was recently crucified and then rose from the grave on the 3rd day, who grew up in Nazareth, the son of a carpenter. Peter wants no possible confusion to exist here.

He is pointedly clear in proclaiming the name of his Lord...as we should be when opportunity comes to share the gospel.

The Jesus I am sharing is the Jesus of the christian Bible, NOT Jehovah Witness's Jesus, NOT the Jesus they worship or the Jesus the Mormons worship or any other Jesus WHO IS NOT the risen King of Glory, THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD, who came, born as a baby in bethlehem, who grew to be a man, lived a sinless life, taught of the Kingdom of God, whom God affirmed by working many miracles through Him..who then died on the cross as he said he would, who rose from the grave, as he said he would and ascended to heaven, as he said he would, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God and is now interceding in prayer for those who believe in his name. It is HIS NAME I share WITH YOU as the only hope for sinful man to be saved.

I permit no confusion to exist here. Let me be ever so clear.

We'll see Peter continue this pointed testifying to the name of Christ in the coming weeks. Read ahead and take notice of it.

Peter is DISTINCTLY clear and specific in his witnessing and permits no barrier between them for he further acts,..in this precious, Spirit Empowered moment,...PETER reaches out and to touch this man. Look at the first part of (verse 7). One who had many pass-byer's likely drop or place money before him, BUT I wonder how often he experienced the heartfelt touch of another one? The effectiveness of human touch. What feels better...giving yourself a massage or receiving one? Easy answer right?...The significance of human touch...TOUCH that is RELATIONALLY and SITUATIONALLY appropriate. Touch that brings affirmation, (proper) affection, APPROVAL, warm understanding and SYMPATHY.. So much is communicated through touch and we see Peter here...engaged and filled with the Holy Spirit..on the fringe of stating a miracle to take place, reach down...extending his right hand and WITHOUT WORDS,...affirms to this lame helpless and hopeless man that he has full confidence in this Jesus,..whom he proclaimed for him to act in placing his TRUST and

HOPE in to rise up and WALK. Something the lame man has never experienced before... EVER. Doesn't even know what it feels like to stand, let alone walk. It's foreign to him. He sees it every day..but that's it...now though...encouraged by an instrument in God's hands he takes Peter by his hand and responds to the word of Christ spoken to him. As Peter braises himself to raise him up,..the lame man meets that SAME believing faith and engages in the act of standing up..... WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MOMENT.

Return now to (verse 7) to see what happens. A miracle takes place. By the power of God, in the name of Jesus Christ...the impossible becomes possible. Immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. A man lame from birth...carried all his life from place to place...is now experiencing something brand new. The presence of strength and life come immediately to that which before hand,...was dead...lifeless....BUT is now assuring him the ability to stand, under his own strength, along side PETER and JOHN who bore witness to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. EMMANUEL, God with us. (Acts 4:12) "....The only name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The wind blows where it wishes...and so does the Spirit who works NOT only a physical miracle BUT the greatest miracle of all. He creates a new life. One who was once dead in his trespasses and sin is made alive again in Christ. This is revealed in the 4th WAY the unfolding of this illustration takes shape..of the church,...engaging with the work of the Holy Spirit. (read right into #4) and that is...

4. Healing and Heart transformation miraculously take place.

(verse 8) testifies to it ever so clearly. (read)...strength and power are immediately given to his FEET and ANKLES and I for one cannot help but smile at this man's bolstering FAITH. He leaps up! Not a ginger wobbliness like a new born fawn, but BAM! Leaps up like a Ninja warrior springing to action from being on their back, this lame man, acting in believing faith, leaps up to his feet..standing in his own strength..but not very long. A beautiful progression is seen here. He joins Peter and John who are going into the temple...TO PRAY. He walks with them...something brand new...the power of walking. He has full strength given to not only stand BUT WALK...we see that word mentioned twice...he is walking now with these two men who engaged him in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. The walking however quickly builds revealing his inability to contain his jubilant joy at this transformation taken place in his life. IMAGINE what may be going through his MIND at this moment in time. His life is radically changed.

Experiencing for the first time the POWER to stand and walk and sort of like a race car driver testing out a new race car..."Let's see what these puppies can do!" That's what I picture in the account of this miracle here. He could have been doing air squats, SKIPPING Irish jig, that fancy hop where you click your heels together a little off angle in the air...you know the springy step I'm talking about. Something along those lines bearing witness to this man's ecstatic response about his newly given life. He is uninhibited in expressing his enthusiasm, NOT just in action but with what? HIS WORDS. The Holy Spirit who empowers the tongue of God's people to bear witness to Christ has fanned into flame this man who is exuberantly walking and leaping along side PETER and JOHN....boldly proclaiming praises to God. ONE WHO was once lame...

helpless and hopeless IS NOW, by the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus...MIRACULOUSLY transformed to the glory of God the Father...AMEN!?

Now, a couple of things to take to heart along with me that we can observe from this account in scripture.

1. Handicap is a result of the fall of man. When man fell into sin it originated in the heart of MAN who disobeyed God's word, who rebelled against the one who made them, who gave them life. MAN chose rather to believe a lie and decide for themselves to define what GOOD and EVIL is rather than trust God. The fall of man in the garden of Eden resulted in God's curse for our disobedience... the affects of which extend into every part of God's creation. The curse in which Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:13) redeemed us from by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." The great story of God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ. Christ's work is finished. He accomplished it fully on the cross at Calvary.

Absorbing the full extent of God's JUST wrath to atone for the sins of those who call upon His name for salvation.

This is complete...NOTHING MORE can be added to it. YET, we are in the in between are we not. The already but not yet. Resting in the accomplished work of Jesus Christ whom the Father approved by RAISING Him from the DEAD, while still feeling the various affects of the curse. Death, sickness, disabilities, sorrow, WAR, calamity...EVIL...and so on...are very much a reality while we wait Christ's return. This very question is presented to Christ by his disciples regarding one born BLIND. We find it in the gospel of John (9:1-3) -read- "It is not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." — Sound similar? Just like this man born blind that the works of God might be displayed in him, the man born lame was not a result of his sin but provides a powerful illustration, "a sign of healing" (Acts 4:22), to those present then and to us now of the POWERFUL Redemptive Kingdom WORK of God by His Spirit with His people engaged with HIM.

It's clear also that not every handicap has the outcome of these two testimonies provided in scripture. God may choose to heal and he does, but he equally may choose not to. It's what is in accordance with His perfect insight as to fulfilling the purposes of His Holy will. The Spirit of God works according the mind of God (Ephesians 1:9) who acts in perfect wisdom and insight in keeping with the mystery of His will according to his purpose, which He set forth in Christ. We can rest peacefully on this truth and know furthermore that though one may not have their physical eyes opened OR strength given to stand up and walk or even leap...THEY CAN, most assuredly, they can have a miraculous TRANSFORMATION of heart, A GREATER WORK WITHIN of being regenerated...having a new heart...awakened to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ...to call upon His name for salvation to which they may rest firm on God's promises that one day all things will be made new. They will receive their glorified bodies in heaven WHEN the fullness of time comes, WHEN God unites all things in Him (him Christ), things in heaven and things on earth when the curse of the fall is no longer felt. The sting of death is extinguished. THIS IS the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit the CHURCH can engage with.

and the 2nd observation to take to heart. Discipleship is gloriously displayed. PETER...having an ordinary day in the life of a christian...is prompted by the movement of the Spirit...like a

gentle breeze..inviting him over..he engages with the Spirit...establishes the attention of one he encounters who is helpless and in need of hope. He engages the lame man where he is at and pointedly shares the gospel of Jesus Christ with him who grips Peter's hand extended to him that he would act upon the word spoken. FAITH brings HEALING and HEART transformation IMMEDIATELY." This new creation in Christ now joins these two new friends of his into the temple.

This is his 1ST decisive action beyond his jubilant joy expressed in LEAPING and SPEAKING PRAISE to God. He walks with them and continues with them all through this account given. Discipleship ensues the conversion, the miracle of new birth. Discipleship in a believer's life. It's ESSENTIAL for SPIRITUAL GROWTH. A follower of Jesus who walks with other CHRISTIANS....who does life with other followers of Jesus that together all may progress in becoming more like him who they follow. Him Jesus, His teachings and ultimately his life that exemplified them..that their lives WOULD mutually do likewise.

We'll leave this 2nd point with TWO questions to consider. FIRST - With whom are you in regular discipleship with? And SECOND - What is your posture in those discipling relationships? **And what I mean by posture is.....Are you teachable regardless of ones Spiritual maturity of whom you engage with?**

Let's say one of the answers to question one is your son or daughter of whom you are in discipleship with. Do you approach discipleship with them prepared in HEART and MIND for God to communicate a spiritual truth through them to YOU...as well as YOU to them? Or is it only one way? PAUL demonstrated this humility EXQUISITELY. Clearly, he would hold the dominating presence of one given understanding and revelations of the things of God,... YET at the same time he is seen to be one who is mutually encouraged by others faith... who was humble...teachable at any moment God would so choose and through whatever means He decides to do so.

Purpose in your heart to ALWAYS be TEACHABLE. Any time and any means so long as it holds up against the test of scripture.

Our last point of focus from our text taking shape portraying the church engaged with the Holy Spirit in the work of salvation concludes with the **Heralding of Praise to the glory of God at the wonder and awe of many.**

5. **Heralding of Praise to the glory of God at the wonder and awe of many.**

Look upon the closing verses of this morning's passage (9-10). Nothing short of a transformed life to the glory of God. The SAVING, sanctifying WORK of the Holy Spirit is an astonishing work that perplexes people. It brings WONDER and AMAZEMENT to witness a life transformed BY the NAME of Jesus Christ. The distinctness of a new creation in Christ is RIVETING.

One Born of the Spirit simply behaves differently. Now consider along with me, not everyone Born Again has a testimony likened unto this lame man from birth being able to walk again and leap giving praise to God. But does that make any other saving work of the

Holy Spirit less powerful if the DISTINCTION doesn't have this radical 180 turn of events? Not even remotely.

Each and every saving work of the Spirit contains within it equal un-measurable supply of the GRACE MERCY and FORGIVENESS made available through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit's saving work is of unchangeable magnitude YET vastly diverse in how it's applied. On the work of regeneration by the Holy Spirit....Charles Spurgeon said this - "God's Spirit calls men to Jesus in diverse ways. Some are drawn so gently that they scarce know when their drawing began, and others are so suddenly affected that their conversion stands out with noonday clearness." And there you have it. DIVERSE in HOW the Holy Spirit calls men and women to Jesus but distinct in that He calls them to A NEW LIFE. Born again to a living hope. Where ever any born again christian falls in this spectrum...the outcome is always the same. A transformed life who gives praise to God with jubilant joy (Psalm 68:3). People see and can't deny a changed life..that you have been with Jesus (as we'll hear stated later in Acts). For the sudden conversion, those who knew you before are PERPLEXED, they don't get it...they stand in WONDER and AMAZEMENT at the riveting transformation that has taken place in your life. While at the other end of the spectrum, perhaps one who came to a saving knowledge of the Lord at an early age, the compelling observation witnessed is your ever increasing heartfelt devotion to a life of service to him who saved you. A life of love for God and people ADORNED by FAITHFULNESS, contentment, unadulterated piusness, MEEKNESS and humility grounded in the STEADFAST HOPE of Christ your Lord and Savior....Full of thankfulness through all of life's trials and difficulties. These virtues are witnessed in the life of a believer and ought to be seen progressing... MATURING...the work of Sanctification BY the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.

The christian's life is distinct from all other people on the face of the earth.

And every new believer THEN is immediately brought into the HIGHEST PRIVILEGE in all the world and that is to engage with the Holy Spirit who is doing the impossible every day. Taking a dead, lifeless, heart of stone and calling life to come forth...in the name of Jesus of Nazareth rise up and walk. AWAKEN Leap up....and leave your old life behind,... REPENT....and live for God to the praise of His name for ALL to see and hear.

CONCLUSION:

As God's SET APART people - The Spirit indwelt Church - we have the distinct privilege of being actively ready to engage with the work of the Holy Spirit at any given moment. Please consider a fresh with me how ASTOUNDING that is. Jesus said "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."....(John 14:12) and this is how....The Holy Spirit empowering the message of Christ spoken through His Church to create a new life that joyfully submits under the righteous RULE and REIN of the King of Glory. The risen Lord Jesus.

CHRISTIAN, do you realize what you are able to participate in? What you get to take place in as instruments used in God's hands, empowered by His Spirit. **The miracle of new birth....God TRANSFERRING one enslaved to sin to be enslaved to righteousness.** Bringing one from DEATH to LIFE...from **Darkness to Light.** And of equal significance....the **miracle of sanctification...engaging with The Work of the Spirit of Christ to change his redeemed from one degree of glory to the next.** Spiritual maturation...Becoming more like Christ. Engaging with the Spirit of God to do that which is impossible with man (**Matthew 19:26, Mark 10:27**).

Where and when does this take place you ask? **Every day believer....every day.** Living a **FAITHFUL, STEADFAST ordinary day** as a devoted follower of **Jesus Christ.** **Always ready and willing.** **Praying for and eagerly waiting with anticipation for the gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit to prompt and empower you at any given moment.** This may be within your home....**REGULAR** devotions taking place with your children and you...**a daily habit...but then..unexpectedly..that circumstance occurs...a question posed...BAM! The Holy Spirit is opening a door to speak and connect at the heart level.** **Stop what you are doing..DON'T miss the moment..ENGAGE and TRUST, regardless of outcome.** Trust God with your **obedience to His Spirit, Engage** and continue to be ready.

It could be a **CONVERSATION** that is taking place with that parent you see regularly at your children's shared activity OR with the **gas station attendant...OR during the course of a regular business transaction with a returning customer..any one of these scenarios and countless more...then....unexpectedly...BAM! The Spirit blows where it pleases and a door is opened to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ.** **Church pray for these opportunities...like the persistent widow who would not stop pestering the unrighteous judge...Pray persistently to your Righteous Father to be granted opportunities to engage with His Spirit...DAILY.** I tell you christian, there is **no greater joy on earth than to partner with God the Holy Spirit who is all powerful and is working SALVATION each and every day.** **As a living miracle yourself...to partake in God working other MIRACLES. Nothing compares.**

Spirit indwelt believer, be actively ready to engage with The Work of the Holy Spirit at any given moment to the exaltation of Jesus Christ and to the glory of God the Father.

Communion -

For one to engage with the Holy Spirit in His work ONE must first themselves be born again. They must have placed their **FAITH and HOPE in the saving work of Jesus Christ.** **Not a righteousness of their own making BUT that which solely rests upon the righteousness of Christ and His sacrificial death on the cross whereby one may be saved by FAITH in him.** **The offering of his life on the cross alone is all sufficient to atone for sin.** **Those who belong to him remember, until he comes to take us home...we remember his body that was given and his blood that was shed for the forgiveness of sin.** **His life and death by which we**

have a **living hope**..for the grave could not hold him...it was impossible for it to hold him **for his life**...his **sinless life** conquered death.

And the night before his crucification..Jesus **took of the elements**, he **broke the bread** and **dispersed** it to **His disciples** and said “**this is my body**..eat ..and he **took of the cup** which **represented his blood** and said ‘**drink**for whenever you **eat of the bread** and **drink of the cup** you **proclaim the Lord’s death** till he come. The Lord’s meal is open this morning for the believer.

BELIEVER, come forward and partake. As time is given for your heart to respond to the word received...when you are ready,...**come forward and proclaim the Lord’s death till He return.**

Benediction:

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

As fellow servants and workers in God's house, his Kingdom..please receive the Benediction.

Please know that if you are here and are stirred within to further discuss this Jesus..the one we proclaim here as our Lord and Savior. The risen King of Glory. Please seek out a member here in the church and have that conversation..don’t turn away...be welcomed to come...to hear of whom we bear witness to. Jesus Christ.

Family

Table Talk



April 15, 2018

GOD'S TRUTH

The Christian in-dwell with the Holy Spirit, engages with the work of the Holy Spirit in doing the impossible in the name of Jesus Christ to the glory of the Father!

Family Discussion

1. Have you ever seen used, or used yourself, pneumatic tools? You know...the tools in your parents garage or the tire service shop that come to life when activated by the power of compressed air. Think about those tools in action and discuss how they cause a lifeless instrument to come alive with the purpose to accomplish amazing tasks. For extra fun..., if you have such tools at home, go to the shop or garage and demonstrate it's power when the air is on, and in contrast, it's lifelessness apart from it.
2. Such tools as these serve as a helpful illustration to how God the Holy Spirit empowers His people to accomplish eternal work. Apart from His Spirit empowerment, we are absolutely helpless. Any Kingdom effort, not Spirit empowered, is in vain.
3. Who in Acts chapter 6 was "full of grace and power, doing great wonders and signs among the people?"
4. In what ways, as Paul described, is the powerful effectiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ seen in this body of believers in Thessalonica.

There are many...search diligently to see The powerful work of The Holy Spirit in these peoples lives.

Key Verse

"Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

John 14:12 (ESV)

TABLE READING



Lead your kids into God's Word...

3. Read Acts 6 where a Spirit filled man is empowered by The Holy Spirit to do many mighty works. Ephesians 4:1-16; Romans 15:5-7; 1 Peter 4:10-11
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 where Paul affirms the powerful work of the gospel among this.
5. Read Ephesians 3:14-21 as instruction for how we ought to pray for this empowerment which is at work in and through us.

Scripture Memory: Acts 2:42

"AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE, YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES." - DEUTERONOMY 6:5-9 (ESV)

