

The Activity of the Spirit 6

In the Historical Church

SLIDE ONE

Introduction:

Last week I introduced the theme of this month. The activity of the Holy Spirit. Our endeavor is allow the Holy Spirit to use us, work in us and transform us. I believe that it is time for us to move over and let the Spirit take over.

In this morning series, my intention is to educate and for some remind you of how the Holy Spirit was active in the shaping of the Historical church.

The Father **made** the Plan, The Son **paid** for the plan and the Holy Spirit **activates** the plan.

SLIDE TWO

The Creation

Before the Father spoke light into the world, He sent the Spirit to move upon the face of the waters

The Ministry of Jesus

Before the Father sent the Son into the world He sent the Spirit to prepare the way.

The Ministry of the Church

Before the sent the church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the church, The furtherance of the church is motivated, stimulated, impregnated and activated by the Holy Spirit.

Many Christians can go on with their Christian walk never tapping in to the divine resources the Holy Spirit provides for this hour.

Acts 19:2

2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

Can you imagine that, living the Christian life without the knowledge of the Holy Spirit. Thank God, we know what we know. And the Father desires for us to have total reliance on the Holy Spirit.

SLIDE THREE

Text: 1 Cor 2:4-5

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Expound – Paul is making it clear that our faith is not to rest on the wisdom of Men, not by power, nor by might, but my Spirit says the Lord.

The realm of Paul's ministry was the Gentiles, and their trust was in philosophy and the wisdom of men. The know how and the rudiments of men that have crept into the church.

Man trusted the oratory of men, rather than the simplicity of Christ. Our faith should stand on the demonstration of the Spirit and of Power. In this case, seeing is believing!

SLIDE FOUR A

Point One: The demonstration of the Spirit in the historical church

When we begin with the historical church, we cannot leave out the incident of the Upper room. The dissolution, discouraged group, became enthusiastic witnesses after that the Holy Ghost filled them.

It is evident that the Holy Ghost made a difference in the advancement of the Gospel, without the Holy Spirit Christianity would have died in the traditions of man.

Miracles, signs and wonders have an interesting way of breaking traditions and mechanics of men.

SLIDE FOUR B

1). The Motivation from the Spirit

Not only did the Holy Spirit bring power, but sustaining power and motivation. Especially when intimidated by the fear of man.

Acts 4:31

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all **filled** with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

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Def: Filled – We might see here that this was common thought. Being filled, for the new ones, but these were believers of the Upper Room. Showing us that being filled is a continual experience for the task. Yes, we are filled, but don't stop there as we are in progress the Holy Spirit will empower us for future endeavors.

Acts 9:31

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

KJV

Acts 13:9-11

9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

The Spirit of God will fill you consistently for the task.

SLIDE FOUR C

2). The Administration and Structure of the Church

These were not educated men, but normal individuals that were filled with God. The administration, the organization and flow of the shaping of the church were by men who were FILLED with the Spirit.

Example

Acts 6:3-5

3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

Acts 13:50-52

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

It is important that the structure of leadership in the today's church are appointed by men and women who are FILLED with the Spirit. Seniority, or great standing with the officials or those who are rich and related are placed in position. But those that are full of faith and the Holy Ghost.

Isa 11:2-4 – The results of the Spirit on the Messiah

2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—

3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; (Full of Faith)

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

The church was not good because of good people, but people who were directed and led by the Power of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit of God, God will structure and put his body in order.

Heb 3:7

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, **To day if ye will hear his voice,**

The first 500 years of Christianity was very crucial, they needed to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, for they did not have the luxury of the Bible like we did. The Holy Spirit was guiding the young, frail church through the changing structures of Greco-roman empire. The Church was not structured to the times, but kept pure in purpose by the those that allowed themselves to be submitted to the Holy Spirit.

God will by his Spirit put people in place -

Acts 13:2-4

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.**

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

This is very important that we SUBMIT to the Holy Spirit in who He places and calls to certain task, for God will not call who we might expect.

Paul being a Jew, knowing what He knew about his former faith, would be the best candidate to the Jews, but the Spirit send him to the Gentiles.

1 Cor 1:26-29

26 For ye **see your calling**, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That **no flesh should glory** in his presence.

Acts 20:28

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

So it is the Holy Spirit that put us in our place and positions.

Evangelism was thrust by the Holy Spirit**Acts 10:44-46**

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Evangelism was even directed by the Holy Ghost**Acts 16:6-8**

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

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1 Cor 2:10

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Tim 4:1

4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

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1 John 4:2

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

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