

We are now eight months into the year. So, I would like to remind you of our goal for 2017. We are endeavoring to “Go Deeper.” We want to gain a deeper understanding of God so that we may have a deeper appreciation of God that drives us to a deeper level of commitment to God.

We began the year by studying the character and attributes of God the Father. Then we looked at how Jesus embodied those attributes and serves as our example in representing God to the world. Over the past few weeks we have learned about the blessing of not being alone in our mission to make disciples and share the Gospel by emphasizing the importance of the church and Christian partnerships is ministry.

Now, I believe it is important for us to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the work of the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the person of the godhead with which we have the most interaction so we need to understand what he does and how he does it.

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.”<sup>[1]</sup> Over the next five weeks we will see how he accomplishes that task. We start by looking at the empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 1:8

<sup>i.</sup> The Holy Spirit: Empowering

A. **Empowers Life**

1. Animate life (Job 34:14-15)
  - a) Breath = Spirit (Gen 2:7)
  - b) Conception of Jesus (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:35)
2. A New Life (John 3:6-7, 6:63)
  - a) Regeneration from our old sinful life to a new life free from the power of sin
3. Everlasting Life (Rom. 8:11)
  - a) Resurrection of our mortal bodies is accomplished through the Holy Spirit

B. **Empowers Service**

1. In the OT
  - a) While the Holy Spirit did not indwell all believers in the OT, there is evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in the OT
  - b) “On” rather than “in”
    - (1) Joshua = wisdom
      - (a) Num. 27:18; Deut. 34:9

- (2) The judges
    - (a) Othniel (Judges 3:10)
    - (b) Gideon (Judges 6:34)
    - (c) Jephthah (Judges 11:29)
    - (d) Samson (Judges 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14)
  - (3) Saul - To battle Israel's enemies (1 Sam. 11:6)
  - (4) David - To lead Israel (1 Sam. 16:13)
  - (5) Bezalel - To build the Tabernacle (Ex. 31:3; 35:31, 34)
2. In the NT
- a) Anointing of Jesus
    - (1) Post baptism (Matt. 3:16; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22)
    - (2) Prior to tempting (Luke 4:1)
    - (3) Performing ministry (Luke 4:18-19)
  - b) Indwelling Believers
    - (1) Gospel (1 Peter 1:12)
      - (a) Boldness (Acts 4:13, 29, 31)
      - (b) Effectiveness (Acts 6:10; 1 Thess. 1:5)
    - (2) Gifts (1 Cor. 2:11)
      - (a) For equipping and edifying (Eph. 4:12)
  - <sup>(3)</sup> Groans
    - (a) Intercession (Rom. 8:26)
    - (b) Entrance (Eph. 2:18)
    - <sup>(c)</sup> A special language (1 Cor. 12:10-11; 14:2, 14-17)

Without a doubt, the gift of the Holy Spirit is a tremendously wonderful and important part of the Christian life. He empowers us with the ability to accomplish the Great Commission which we've been given. To relegate him to merely a giver of gifts for personal satisfaction and status is blasphemous. Not only does he serve as our security of everlasting life in the hereafter, he also enables us to live the new life to which we've been called through Christ Jesus in the here and now.

So this morning, if you have not trusted in Jesus as your Savior and surrendered to him as Lord, I echo the words of Peter:

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

If you have trusted in Jesus, I encourage you to honor, respect, and appreciate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Give thanks to God the Father for being so gracious and generous. Surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit and commit to being used by him for the glory of the Lord.

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[i] Grudem, Wayne. Systematic Theology. (Inter-Varsity Press, Zondervan Publishing House, 1994) p. 634