

TITLE: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

TEXT: John 14:15-31

Today, we are coming to one of those special portions of scripture that we find in the Gospel of John. We come to the prayer of Jesus for the Holy Spirit. Jesus prays to the Father that we will receive the Holy Spirit.

So, take your Bibles, and turn with me to the Gospel of John chp 14. The Gospel of John chapter 14 beginning with Vs 15...(Read Vs 15-31)

PRAYER

What a wonderful passage. The ^{the} ~~(5B)~~ INSTRUCTION OF JESUS CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT. Dear friends, I believe it is very important that we all understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit, if we are to accomplish the work the Lord has for us to do. So, these are tremendous verses.

(1C) NOW, FIRST OF ALL, NOTICE A BASIC PRINCIPLE ^{which} ~~WITH~~ OUR LORD TAUGHT.

In Vs 15 Jesus said, "IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS." That is the basic principle of the Christian life. There is one evidence...there is one simple fact that you can write down and measure ^{YOU LIFE BY} ~~people by~~...and that is...THAT OBEDIENCE IS THE EVIDENCE OF REAL LOVE.

It is so easy for us to say that love is an emotion. And certainly it is. But, our Lord taught that if you really love Him, you will keep His commandments. And those commands are found here in chapters 13 through 17. All these things that Jesus is teaching His disciples. So, I remand you, that Jesu says that the one way you will know that you really love Him is by obeying Him. "IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS."

(2C) NOW SECONDLY, I WANT TO LOOK AT THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life and in my life. There are six principles found in these verses that spell out the ministry of the H.S. ^{Six Principles}

(1D) Number one, the Holy Spirit brings security to the believers's life.

In Vs 16, Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper, that He maybe with you forever." That, dear friends, is tremendous security. The Holy Spirit will be with you forever.

ETernal Security

In Ephesians 1:13, Paul says that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of promise when Christ comes again, ~~and we receive our inheritance.~~ WE ARE SEALED. ~~With the H.S.~~

In Vs 14 Paul writes that the Holy Spirit is given as a pledge of our inheritance. The fact that I know that I am going to be in heaven is by the pledge of the Holy Spirit. That is part of His ministry. He has sealed us. To seal something means "to mark it for one's own possession." Like the seal of Ceasar that was put on documents and so forth. It marked it as His own.

And the Spirit of God has been given to you, ^{so Holy Spirit} ~~Christian~~, to seal you... ^{The Christian - The Believer & Christ} to mark you as belonging to God. Isn't that wonderful? Praise God.

I kind-off wish sometimes that it was a visible mark. You know, some mark on the body and everybody could see it.

But, then I realized. It is visible..Did you know that? It is visible through the qualities and characteristics and attitudes that is being reflected in your life style. As you permit the Holy Spirit to develop His fruit in your life, his mark becomes visible. Maybe not visible in the physical sense, but in the attitudes, characteristiss we display in our love and relationships with those around us.

You know, Jesus said that he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do you know why that is true? It is because you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. And let me tell you, ^{dear Friends} there is wonderful security in understanding that seimple principle.

(2D) Number two, the Holy Spirits abiding ministry. Jesus said in the last phrase of Vs 17, "He abides with you. And will be ^{her} in you."

People often ask..What was the spirit's ministry in the disciples before the day of Pentecost?..ANSWER: He dwelt with them. It doesn't say "in them." You see, there is an important change that took place. The word "with" means :along side of." ^{The H.S.} He was along side of them...helping them, encouraging them and so forth. But, the change that happened after our Lord ascended into heaven. And the day of Pentecost came when the Spirit came with His baptising power. WHAT WAS THE CHANGE? Jesus said, "HE SHALL BE IN YOU.

Dear friends, for the first time in the history of God's program and plan for the first time people would now be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. He has taken up ^{residence} ~~residence~~ in the life of a believer. This doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit didn't effect and influence people in the O.T. He did. But, for the first time, beginning on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit now indwells ^{those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour} ~~people.~~ If you are a christian, I Cor. 6:19 says that "your body has become the temple of the Holy Spirit." He lives within you. The abiding ministry of the Holy Spirit is so wonderful.

(3D) Third, the holy spirit's ministry of assurance. . . Assurance..Vs 18 says: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Now, is Jesus talking about His second coming?...NO...He is talking about the ministry of the Spirit of God. That is why He said ^{down vs 25} later in this passage that ^{we} they should rejoice. Because another comforter will come. Acturally the very presence of Jesu is made real by the Holy Spirit's ~~coming~~ and comforting you and bringing assurance ^{to your life that you are saved.}

Romans 8:16 says, "the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Man! that is ^{terrendous assurance} ~~so wonderful.~~

^{out} The Holy Spirit is going to encourage and comfort your heart, if you are a believer. Dear friends, that is a wonderful promise. He is going to bring you assurance.

(4D) Number four...closely related to the ministry of assurance is the ministry of encouragement. The encouragement in the content of this passage deals with Christ's departure. He is going to leave..Vs 18 Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans."

And I like that. We are not spiritual orphans. NO WAY.. He didn't leave us alone. He left us the Holy Spirit. Another comfortor just like himself.

In Vs 17 Jesus said that the world cannot receive Him, but you can know Him. The world cannot know ^{The H.S.} ~~Him~~. But, the christian can. HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT DIFFERENCE?

The world thinks christians are a little "WIRED" for believing that the Holy Spirit dwells within us. But, we understand. HOW? The presnece of the Holy Spirit has come into us and given us a spiritual understanding.

Someone who is not a believer looks at that and says: "Hay, that is a little far out. You are right. It is....Until you experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Then it is not "far out" It is exciting. WHY? Because we know the reality of God's presence. And that is a wonderful experieence. And that is a wonderful encouragement in one's life. God does not leave us alone. *to move - I don't feel like God! - I said - guess*

You see, you and God make a majority. Isn't that wonderful? One Christian indwelt by the Holy Spirit is never alone.

That is why a person can go to the mission field and endure the hardships of separation from family and friends and then testify that He is not alone. HOW CAN HE SAY THAT? Because of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He is not alone. And neither are we.

However, if you do feel alone, guess who moved?

(5D) Number five: The teaching ministry of the Spirit. Vs 26, "But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." ^{The H.S.} ~~He~~ is the teacher. Now, there is a two fold application *that you must understand*

(1E) First to the disciples. ^{you} He taught them all the things that they were learning. ^{The H.S.} He brought to their remembrance all things that Christ taught so that they could be correctly recorded in what we call the Bible.

(2E) Secondly, there is an application to all of us. In I John chapter 2, in the last few verses the Bible says that every believer has an anointing from God, namely the Holy Spirit, and you have no need of anyone else teaching you.

Now, in that passage John is not talking about the person doing the teaching. He is not talking about the act or the process of teaching. HE IS TALKING ABOUT THE RESULTS. The results that will happen in your life through the application of the ^{the H.S.} Word of God. The Spirit will teach you.

So, that when you hear ^(Right Now) a teacher and when you see the act and process of teaching, the end result of what I heard and what I have been taught is....IS THAT GOD'S WORD?" You see, the Holy Spirit has been given to you, Christian, to check it out. That is a tremendous things.

A lot of us, because we are not walking ^{by} in the Spirit, do not experience that ministry. And we miss a tremendous blessing.

And if you are not walking under the control of the Holy Spirit, you have no guarantee that you are hearing the truth and not error.

The ^{H.S.} Spirit has been given to us to hear the truth. Don't believe everything that comes over that ^{T.V. Tube} book tube, or what you read in the newspapers. Listen, friends, find out if it is the truth of God's Word. [That is why I ask you to bring your Bibles ^{to class}. That is why I have you turn to the scripture and follow along as I teach. That is why I encourage you to take notes... WHY? Because the Holy Spirit will guide you into all the truth.

What is the correct teaching about Jesus Christ, his death, His resurrection, His second coming? What is the correct teaching about how a person can go to heaven? What is the correct method of salvation? How can one truly know how to live the christian life? ^{Dear} Friends, it is the Spirit of Truth who will teach you all things. And if you don't believe the Bible, you have no objective evaluation of THE TRUTH. Non what so ever. But, if you do believe the ^{Bible} Bible, the HOLY Spirit will guide you into the joys of the christian experience...

and when you have applied the Word of God to your life, the H.S. will bring that Word to your remembrance in times of need -

(6D) And the sixth ministry of the Holy Spirit is the matter of peace.

God's wonderful peace. There is a song ^(in our hymn book) that expresses this verse so well. The chorus goes: "PEACE, PEACE, WONDERFUL PEACE, COMING DOWN FROM THE FATHER ABOVE: SWEEP OVER MY SPIRIT FOREVER, I PRAY, IN FATHOMLESS BILLOWS OF LOVE."

Look at ^{of John chp 14} Vs 27...Jesus said, "Peace, I leave with you; My peace I give to you." Now, did you follow that correctly? PEACE...I...LEAVE..WITH...YOU... MY...PEACE...I...GIVE...TO...YOU."

What is the peace that is being given to Us?...WHAT IS IT?...

Answer: THE HOLY SPIRIT. Do you understand?

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Jesus said, "Hay, I am going away. But, I am not going to give you the worlds kind of peace. You know, the kind of peace that says, 'Hay! every thing is alright. Don't worry about it.'" *Be Cool* No way... I am going to give you my peace: the presence of the Holy Spirit. And because of that you don't need to let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid."

Tremendous.....God's peace is the presence of the Holy Spirit... *dwelling in your Life*

Now, there are three principles in this verse that are very important.....

(1E) Number one, the result of God's peace...meaning the result of the Holy Spirit's ministry in your life is found at the end of Vs 27.."Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid." That is the result of the Holy Spirit being in your life. *a settled Life*

(2E) Number two, rejoicing. Jesus said in Vs 28, "If you loved me, you would rejoice, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I."

Jesus in His humanity was subjected to the will of the Father. And the point is that the will of the Father is for Jesus to ascend into heaven. And Jesus told them that the comforter was coming. So, you should be happy.

A result of *the ministry of* knowing ~~that~~ the Holy Spirit *in your Life is* ~~is coming~~ is rejoicing. Praise God the Spirit has come. We have the Spirit in us...WOW!!!!

(3E) Third, reassurance... Vs 29, "Now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, YOU MAY BELIEVE."

What a wonderful principle. The Holy Spirit helps us to believe.

Now, just a word about Vs 30...Jesus said, "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in me."

The question is often ask: WHY DID CHRIST PREMISE THE DEVIL, AS HE WORKED IN THE LIVES OF JUDAS AND PILOT AND THE CHIEF PRIEST, WHY DID HE LET THE DEVIL CRUIFY HIM? WHY DID HE ALLOW ALL THAT TO HAPPEN?.....

The answer is in Vs 31..."that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave me commandment, EVEN SO I DO."

You see, Jesus came into the world to die for your sins and mine. That was the Father's commandment.

And "EVEN ~~SO~~ I DO".....And then in symbolic and literal action Jesus said, *vs 31* "ARISE, LET US GO FROM HERE."

And can you imagine what the disciples must have felt? This is it, boy.. We are all going to go out and die.....

And before the night was over, Jesus was arrested. He went through the mock trials. He was beaten and spat upon and crucified on a cross.

Jesus said, "Arise, let us go from here." And there was nothing that the Devil has ever found in me as to why I should die on the cross for my own sin. So, I am going to die for the sins of the whole world. All of the ^{sins} ~~worlds~~ ^{of the world} ~~sins~~ are going to be laid on me. And friends, that includes your sin and my sin.

And you know, none of the ministry of the Holy Spirit could have been possible had not our Lord went to that cross and died and rose again and ~~ascended~~ ascended into heaven. And now He has given us his ^{which is} peace: The Holy Spirit.

And let me tell you something. If you are here, this morning, and you have no assurance that if you were to die, right now, that you would be in heaven, the Spirit of God, the Bible says, will convict you of sin. He will lead you to Jesus Christ. And when you believe in Christ, when you confess your sin and ask Jesus to come into your life, the Holy Spirit of God will cause a new spiritual birth to happen in you. The Bible says that you will be born again. You will be spiritually born again by the power of the Holy Spirit who comes to live in you...

Man, how could you turn that down? How could you walk out of this service still in your sins?

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.....

then when the invitation is given - Come and join God's church.

Let us close in prayer