

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore — Sunday, September 22
“As the Church...” (part 2)

Welcome/Introduction

Scripture Reading (Acts 1:6-11 ESV)

- Reflection (1-2 minutes)

Acts 1:4-11 (ESV)

4 And while staying with them he [Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” **6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **9** And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11** and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

As the Church, we are led by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Context

[prior to arrest and crucifixion] **John 16:7**, “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”

[Luke’s telling from His gospel] **Luke 24:46-49**, “and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- Throughout the ministry of Jesus and scripture as a whole, the promise of the Holy Spirit is just as vital as any of the other promises we hold on to.

Verses 4-7

4 And while staying with them he [Jesus] ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

- The Old Testament and prophets spoke of God ‘restoring’ Israel after captivity with a “spirit” or “His spirit”.
 - We see this in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Zechariah, and others.
 - [written 500-800 years prior to Acts] Joel 2:28, 3:1, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions...For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,”
 - The disciples are possibly anticipating that this is *that* moment or fulfillment of that promise.
 - They may be thinking this is going to be a political/physical kingdom.
- The disciples are referencing WHEN this will happen. (“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”)
 - They seemed to be a little more concerned about the timing of it all, as opposed to what they are to do.
 - **LAST WEEK:** There is no time table in the presence of God. We wait on Him.
 - Jesus did not answer the question because it was the wrong question.
 - Jesus answered in conjunction with how He has always answered regarding God’s timing.
 - **Matthew 24:36**, “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:1-2**, “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”
 - **Zechariah 14:7**, “And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the Lord,...”
 - **LESSON:** We need not worry about ‘when’. Live for the ‘who’ and the ‘what we are to do’ until that time.

Verse 8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Holy Spirit's power is given to us in order to fulfill our mission.
 - Jesus was baptized, not only in water, but with the Holy Spirit (**Luke 3:22**)
 - The Holy Spirit led Jesus in to the wilderness after His baptism (**Luke 4:1**)
 - **Luke 4:14**, "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country."
 - We need to be submissive to the Holy Spirit's leading.
 - He will lead us to places that we are not comfortable with.
 - **LAST WEEK**: Our job is to abide in Him, follow and obey...apart from Him, we can do nothing!

- Through the Holy Spirit's power, our mission is to be His witness.
 - There is great purpose in your story (testimony).
 - **1 Timothy 1:12-14**, "I thank him who has given me strength [filled with power], Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."
 - **Acts 4:33**, "And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."

- Where do we witness? EVERYWHERE! ("...Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.")
 - Anything that we are/do/or become is subordinate to how we are supposed to live!
 - **Acts 4:20** [Peter], "for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."
 - "The Christian church, according to Acts, is a missionary church that responds obediently to Jesus' commission, acts on Jesus' behalf in the extension of his ministry, focuses its proclamation of the kingdom of God in its witness to Jesus, is guided and empowered by the self-same Spirit that directed and supported Jesus' ministry, and follows a program whose guidelines for outreach have been set by Jesus himself." (Richard N. Longenecker)
 - This.is.our.church!
 - Through the indwelling, powerful presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

As the Church, we are led by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

- We need to understand a few of the purposes of God's indwelling Spirit in our life:

1. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life keeps us accountable to who we represent as witnesses to the grace of God.

- We are inclined to sin (miss the mark of God's righteousness).
- We are easily tempted to do what the world says is pleasing, that which does not coincide with the Word of God and His character.
- **Galatians 5:25**, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."
 - If the fruit (action/deeds) of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, then that is how we are to live...at all times!
 - If we are not living out those characteristics of holy living, that is when we are 'out of step' with the Holy Spirit.

2. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life frees us from the weight of the law.

- Does this mean we don't need to obey the law?? Of course not!
- It means that we don't need to worry about keeping the law as a means of working our way to salvation. ("For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing...not a result of works...")
 - "Suppose I had kept every single law of Lake Elsinore for twenty years. Then I wait at my house for the officials of the city to come and present me with a medal for keeping those laws. Let me tell you, they do not give medals for keeping the law in Lake Elsinore. If I had kept every law for twenty years and then stole something or broke a speeding law, I would be arrested. You see, the law does not reward you. It does not give you life. The law penalizes you." (Adapted from J. Vernon McGee)
 - **Romans 8:10-11**, "But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."
 - **Romans 6:23**, "For the wages of sin is death..."
 - **2 Corinthians 3:17**, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

3. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life will teach us the way of righteousness.

- How many of us know the difference between right and wrong?
 - We've got a bunch of perfect people in the room this morning!
 - We need the presence of the Holy Spirit to teach us what is right, and the right things to say.

- **Luke 12:12**, “for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”
- There are times when we feel the weight of the world to know the Bible inside and out in order to defend our faith...that is unwarranted pressure.
- If we are abiding in the presence of God and His Word, the Holy Spirit’s presence in our life will teach us what we ought to say, and more importantly when we should keep quiet.
 - We need to listen to that voice!
- **John 16:13-14**, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Conclusion (invite worship team back up)

Verses 9-11

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11** and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- “Jesus...will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
 - David Guzik’s commentary:
 - He left *physically* and will so come in like manner.
 - He left *visibly* and will so come in like manner.
 - He left from the *Mount of Olives* and will so come in like manner.
 - He left in the *presence of His disciples* and will so come in like manner.
 - He left *blessing His church* and will so come in like manner.
- They were given the charge to go and be His witnesses and make disciples.
- The same applies to us today. JESUS IS COMING BACK!
 - As the Church, we are led by the presence of the Holy Spirit who keeps us accountable, causes us to walk in freedom, and teaches us so we can be a witness to God’s amazing grace, and give hope to those who need Him!

Prayer

Tithe/Offering (Pastor Jason)

Closing Prayer

Worship (1 song)