

Text: Zech. 4:6

Title: The Spirit of God

I. The Person of the Spirit

II. The Power of the Spirit

III. The Performance of the Spirit

The late Dr. A. W. Tozer, author and pastor, said, "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference.

If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

In many Christian circles the Holy Spirit is, neglected, forgotten, or misunderstood.

D. L. Moody said,

"I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts.

But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

Our text this afternoon shows important imagery by the lamp stand (灯台), the bowl and the two olive trees showing the automatic and spontaneous supply of oil which came totally apart from human agency, foreshadow(预表) the fullness of the Spirit's outpouring (圣灵的浇灌).

The promise of the outpoured spiritual empowerment had direct application to Zerubbabel who was attempting the seemingly impossible task of rebuilding the Temple of God.

There were enemies to the plan of rebuilding the Temple - God, because of His divine grace, by His divine Spirit, would see it accomplished.

The lamp stand for us today symbolizes the Church of God as it will shine in splendor when it is filled with the Spirit of God.

The Church today needs to seek and find again the empowering of the God and to go forward in Him.

Thus, I would like us to consider at the Spirit of God this afternoon

I. The Person of the Spirit *Zechariah 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. (他对我说: "这是耶和华指示所罗巴伯的。万军之耶和华说: 不是倚靠势力, 不是依靠才能, 乃是依靠我的灵方能成事。)*

53 Q. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE CONCERNING "THE HOLY SPIRIT"?

A. First, he, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.

Consider that Holy Spirit - not impersonal force, influence, or some power that emanates (发出) from God

(As the Jehovah Witness's believe) Theologian (神学家) Louis Berkhof points out

- He has intelligence, feeling, and will

- Scripture represents Him as speaking, searching, testifying, commanding, revealing, striving, and making intercession for us (为我们代求)

- His special characteristic is that He proceeds for the Father and the Son / In general it may be said that it is His task to bring things to completion both in creation and redemption (救赎)

Belgic confession - Article 11 - The Holy Spirit Is True and Eternal God

We believe and confess also that the Holy Spirit from eternity proceeds from the Father and the Son; and therefore neither is made, created, nor begotten, but only proceeds from both; who in order is the third person of the Holy Trinity; of one and the same essence, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son; and therefore is the true and eternal God, as the Holy Scriptures teach us

Jesus declared the Spirit leads into all truth

Directs His Church

Acts 13:1-2 ^{NKJ} Acts 13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Directs in Spiritual worship

(Our Text involved in rebuilding of the Temple)

The Spirit gives intercession in prayer

Romans 8:26 ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (况且我们的软弱有圣灵帮助, 我们本不晓得当怎样祷告, 只是圣灵亲自用说不出的叹息, 替我们祷告。)

Not to grieve the Spirit - shows personality

Ephesians 4:29-30 ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (不要叫神的圣灵担忧; 你们原是受了他的印记, 等待得赎的日子来到。)

By means of application - as we look at the Person of the Spirit

Not only do we have a relationship with the Father and the Son

We also must have a relationship with the Spirit - Remember - He is not just power or force that comes from God

When I say I love Lord - not Just Father and Son, it also means the Holy Spirit as well

Are you developing your relationship with Holy Spirit?

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Are you developing your relationship with Holy Spirit?

II. The Power (ability) of the Spirit *Zechariah 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

A. The Word of the Lord began with **not by**.

The negative emphasizing the total insufficiency of human strength and resources is striking. **Nor by** again highlights the negative.

Once we realize what will not accomplish God's will, we can learn what His will is. **"But by"** indicates the instrument or means of agency, or how His will can be accomplished.

Might

First, God's will is not accomplished by might. **Might** (hayil-hul) normally means be strong, or firm (Job 20:21, Ps. 10:5).

It can also be rendered human resources, which includes wealth, physical strength, force, ability or efficiency.

Often it is translated army - showing the might of numbers. It can mean force, be it of men or means, or men and means.

Power

This means force just as might means force. However, power is the ability to persist purposefully, a resoluteness (果敢), resolve (决心) and consistency.

'Might' refers then to material wealth & military capability, while 'power' refers to the resolve of it.

Together they represent the full extent of human resources which could be deployed to deal with a task, be it by an individual or the combined life effort of a multitude.

Yet all man can do in and of himself is unable to accomplish God's task.

Who has all the resources you need to accomplish the will of God in this world?

The Holy Spirit

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

I read a humorous story about a man who strolled out of a hardware store with a smile on his face and a brand-new chainsaw (电锯) in his hands. He was told it could cut down five big oak trees in an hour. Sometime later, however, his smile was gone. Frustrated, he was back at the store complaining that the saw would never cut five trees in an hour. "It took me all day to cut down five trees," he said.

Puzzled, the store owner stepped outside with the saw, gave the cord (绳索) a swift pull, and fired up (发动) the steel-toothed beast. Its deafening roar sent the customer stumbling to get away. "What's that noise?" he gasped.

It's ridiculous (荒唐的) for someone to try to cut down trees with a chain saw without starting it up. But that's how foolish we are as Christians when we try to live for Christ in our own strength.

We get frustrated and spiritually exhausted when we try to work things out on our own terms and according to our own schedule.

We fail to draw on the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us (Romans 8:9-11). Yet His presence can become real and powerful when we rely on Him.

The secret to shining forth the light of God is that all power and sufficiency are of the Holy Spirit.

Notice that the Holy Spirit is illustrated as the oil which flows through the lampstand and the lampstand is representative of the Church.

The oil flowed through appointed conduits into the bowl and through fixed channels connected to the main stem to the individual flames.

It is through fixed channels that the Spirit of God will flow to light up the church of God and its individual members.

What is being said **"not by might nor by power but by My Spirit"** is that the strength and power of the church or of individual believers is found solely in the Holy Spirit.

What produces light through the churches, through the lamps?

God's Spirit. God supplies His power. This power is the Spirit.

A lamp can only fulfill its function when it shines forth by the power of the fuel or oil that it has.

The church fulfills her function not by man's striving but by letting the Spirit shine through her - the light of the world!

III. The Performance of the Spirit *Zechariah 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

The ministry of the Spirit operates in four major ways in relation to the child of God.

1. Regeneration (重生)

- God's creative work in granting to sinners spiritual life

Ephesians 2:1 ^{NKJ} Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Christians are made spiritually alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins

2. Indwelling (内住)

The New Testament declares the constant abiding presence of God in our lives

The Spirit dwells within our hearts and testifies that we are of God

This is a gift that God gives to us = "I will never leave you nor forsake you"

1 Corinthians 6:17-20 ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

3. Enablement for service

- Something that was given to those in OT – supply of power for service

- Some say Spirit not poured out until Pentecost (五旬节), however He was very active before that time

-Saul was turned into another man and anointed for service

- Empowering of Spirit always given with a view for service

= In this was Christ filled without measure - gave to His people

Acts 1:8 ⁸ "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

4. Influence

- Under the influence when drunk with wine vs. being under the direction of the Spirit

- Work of Sanctification (成圣)

- Deals in the realm of obedience

Ephesians 5:18 ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (不要醉酒，酒能使人放荡，乃要被圣灵充满。)

If a man is filled with anger, then anger controls his life.

If a man is filled with greed, then greed dominates his life.

If a man is filled with lust, then lust governs his life.

If a man is filled with love, then love influences all he does.

And if a man is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is controlled by the Spirit - it is, if you will, "control by consent."

God's work is accomplished by the invisible, intangible, unchangeable, but present, potent, and personal Spirit of God.

There are three ways we can attempt to do the work of God.

1. We can trust our own strength and wisdom;

2. we can use the same resources the world uses;

3. or we can depend on the power of God.

The first two approaches may appear to succeed, but they'll fail in the end.

Only work done through the power of the Spirit will glorify God and endure the fires of His judgment (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

Where lies the power of the church, in numbers?

God would rather have Gideon's Army of 300 consecrated souls than 20,000 who are living according to the course of this world.

Where lies the power of the church, in human wealth or political strength? Sometimes these are curses instead of blessings. The power of any church is the Holy Spirit.

As Jesus was born of the Spirit, baptized of the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and proclaimed the Kingdom of God in the power of the Spirit, as He offered Himself through the Eternal Spirit to God, so should we!

For the Spirit of God calls, gifts, equips and works through the people of God. God's Spirit is paramount (至高的), if God's people are to do God's eternal work.

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