

Another Helper

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 22nd May 2010

Intro

Pentecost- 50th day after passover. The day the early church experienced the Holy Spirit coming in power upon them. 50 important number in scripture- the number of jubilee. Every 50 years debts were cancelled and land was returned- it signified a sudden season of abundant blessing, provision and freedom- life suddenly became easy. As Christians one of greatest keys to breakthrough in our lives is to learn how to be a habitation for God's Holy Spirit- we come into freedom and what was previously impossible becomes easy as we cooperate with God. God's desire for Christians is that they be 'built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit' (Eph 2:22)- we were not just saved from something but for something- to be a habitation for God, to manifest His presence here on earth just as Jesus did. This becomes a reality when we take seriously the promises of God concerning His Spirit, and believe them. Let's look at these promises:

Read John 14:12-21

The promise of help- v16-17 ('another helper')

- Parakletos- 'para'='beside' and kaleo='to call' ='called alongside'. Means an advocate, counsellor, helper, comforter. Outside of the Bible used of an attorney, a solicitor who appears in court on another's behalf.
- This is what Jesus has done- our great high priest before the judge- presents His own blood as our defence & forever lives to make intercession for us. 'While we were without strength Christ died for the ungodly'. Justification (vindicated, declared righteous) or condemnation (sentenced).
- The Holy Spirit is just as if we had Jesus living inside us (v17, v20-21).
- Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10). 'Satan' is the Hebrew word for 'adversary' and 'ha-Satan' is the Hebrew word for 'the accuser'. Satan is a liar and will try and twist the truth to condemn us, even though we are already fully justified before God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (v17) and will highlight the lies that Satan throws us. The Holy Spirit acts as our advocate when Satan tries to condemn us. However the Holy Spirit will also convict us of sin, but will show us the way out through genuine repentance, whereas Satan condemns.
- The Holy Spirit is our master teacher and will teach us all things and remind us of Jesus' teaching (v26). 'All your sons shall all be taught by God' (Is 54:13) and 'I will place my law within them and write it on their hearts' (Jer 31:33-34). Paul prays for the believers in Ephesus to have 'the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation' (Eph 1:17) that they might know God better. It is one thing to know of truth- it is something else to experientially know a truth. The Holy Spirit brings the Truth of scripture to life for us. Read 1John 2:19-27- the anointing teaches them all things and highlights error.
- Wisdom- just as in court even if you have very little intelligence a solicitor knows how to speak and what to bring up in your defense.
- The Holy Spirit is our Helper. Our strengths needs to yield to God if we are to excel in wisdom and understanding- 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight'. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The promise of adoption- v18-21

- We have been saved from sin for something- a relationship with God as Father. Jesus taught us to say 'Abba', 'daddy' when we address God- we are to have intimacy with the creator of the universe. It was illegal for a slave to use the term 'abba' ('daddy') or 'imma' ('mummy') to their masters in Roman law, but if they were adopted they had the privilege of using that title. In v 18 the promise is that Jesus will not leave us as orphans, but that He (and the Father) will come to us.
- Rom 8:14-17 speaks of the Holy Spirit being the spirit of sonship (literally 'adoption') rather than slavery and us being released from the fear of a master to the privilege of calling God 'daddy'
- Sonship speaks of inheritance- Rom 8:17- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ- we share in His reward. The hope we have of eternal life will not disappoint us because already God had poured His fatherly love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit Rom 5:5. We are going to inherit all things Rom 8:32- if God did not even spare His own Son in order to make us His kids, how much more now we are His kids will He not give us all things? The Holy Spirit is God's initial downpayment to us to prove this- Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; 2Cor 1:22; 2Cor 5:5. A deposit to say He will pay up, a seal to prove He is genuine- it is His seal of love and affection on our lives.
- Sense of belonging- we are chosen by God, we are royalty, we are His own special people- 1Pet 2:9. You belong, even without performance you belong. In Mat 3:16-17 Jesus is proclaimed by God the Father to be His beloved Son with whom God is well pleased. This is before Jesus has done any miracles or teaching- the relationship is not performance based- we need to learn from this and have it as our foundation and work from approval, rather to gain approval. Straight away Satan tests the approval Jesus has regarding His status as God's Son-Mt 4:3,6. Jesus, being led by the Spirit is able to discern the errors each time and answer with the correct scripture- the result of this is being entrusted with power- He was secure in His status as a son- so should we be- we have nothing to prove.
- The Greek word translated "adoption" is *huiothesia*, and it occurs only five times in the New Testament, all in the Church Epistles (Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5). According to Vine's Lexicon it means: "the place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not naturally belong." Louw and Nida's Greek Lexicon says: "to formally and legally declare that someone who is not one's own child is henceforth to be treated and cared for as one's own child, including complete rights of inheritance." *Huiothesia* literally means, "to place as a son." Birth seems so much more desirable than adoption that it is fair to ask why God would even use "adoption." The answer is that the Romans recognized that when a baby was born, "you got what you got," whether you liked it or not. This would include the sex of the child, birthmarks, etc. Thus, according to Roman law, a naturally born baby could be disowned from the family. However, people adopting a child knew exactly what they were getting, and no one adopted a child unless that specific child was wanted as a family member, so according to law an adopted child could not be disowned. He or she was permanently added to the family. Many early believers were Roman citizens, and using the word "adoption" was one of God's ways to let the Church know that He chose the children brought into His family, and they could not be taken from it. The Roman historian William M. Ramsay writes:
"The Roman-Syrian Law-Book...where a formerly prevalent Greek law had persisted under the Roman Empire —well illustrates this passage of the Epistle. It actually lays down the principle that a man can never put away an adopted son, and that he cannot put away a real son without good ground. It is remarkable that the adopted son should have a stronger position than the son by birth, yet it was so."
- Hence in Roman culture even real sons could be adopted by their parents to make them more secure in their status.

The promise of power- v12-14

- Jesus promises the ability to work the miracles He worked to everyone that believes (see verses 12-14). It is no accident that He follows this with His promise to send us the Holy Spirit (verses 16 onwards).
- Jesus- where are all the miracles before He was baptised and had H.S descend like a dove?
- Peter- denied Christ, but boldly preached in Acts 2, did miracles (Peter's shadow) and martyred
- Paul- powerless and blind, healed filled and used when filled- many miracles (handkerchief). See 1Cor 2:4 'demonstrations of Spirit's power' and Rom 15:19- signs by Spirit-fully preached gospel. People need to see the gospel demonstrated as well as hear it.
- Book of Acts- all that Jesus continued to do. We need the Holy Spirit constantly.
- Treasure hunt- how it works- ours. Man healed foot, woman of cataracts. Meetings- Man healed of fused plates in back. People healed of deafness. Dave prayed for man on streets- ran. Patrick in pub. Raising the dead team.

Conclusion

- Help. Adoption. Power

Song: Prayer- receive Spirit. Get back in river, be refreshed.