

The Promise of the Holy Spirit- Luke 24:49

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 28th February 2010

Intro

Ever wondered what it must have been like to be a Christian during the time the book of Acts was written? Power on every page- loads of people becoming Christians followed by mass persecution. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts gives us the key to what happened at the end of his gospel in Luke. God wants to continue the book of Acts today- the Acts of Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, through us.

Read Luke 24:49

'I am going to send you what My Father promised'

- Woman cutting my hair once and wasn't confident or skilled with electric razor.
- Jesus is the one who baptises with the Spirit- that's why He came! Lk 3:16- 'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'
- Christ (Greek), Messiah (Hebrew)='anointed one'- He has the anointing and came that we should also have the anointing of the Holy Spirit – 1John 3:20 'but you have an anointing from the Holy One and all of you know the truth'.
- Jesus died & rose & ascended to inherit the right to give H.S to sinful man. Us being filled is proof that it worked!
- He is able and capable to fill you- He has had harder cases than you! We look to Him to fill us even though someone else may pray for us.

'I am going to send you what My Father promised'

- It's a package deal- if you get a computer magazine without your free disk you go back to WHSmiths and ask for it. Karimor trainers -mine didn't come with the free compass.
- The fact that the Holy Spirit is a free gift rather than a reward is implied here, but stated later by Luke in Acts 1:4 'wait for the gift my Father promised'. Not earned, not by works. The price has been paid for you to receive the Holy Spirit.
- O.T (Covenant)=works, N.T=faitth. Prophecy yesterday- Don't need huge faith (like a work) but simple child-like faith- the same faith you had when you became a Christian
- Paul in Ephesus- finds disciples and asks 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' Acts 19:2. Did you? Will you now?

'I am going to send you what My Father promised'

- Many Christians operating on empty because they have a feeling God will fill and use anyone but them- need to hear this verse for themselves- 'going to send you what My Father promised'- Acts 2:39 'the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off- for all whom the Lord our God will call'
- Maybe you feel unlucky- last to be chosen for football team, never been asked to dance, lottery more chance of getting struck by lightning- but. Guilty. Second class Christian. Bring it all under the blood. Jesus has chosen you for the promise.

'I am going to send you what My Father promised'

- Key to receiving is understanding covenant. Covenant is where we make promises to do things. God is bound by covenant and He always keeps His promises
- A huge aspect of the New Covenant is us being filled with the Holy Spirit
- Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:24-27; Joel 2:28-32- these are the promises of a new covenant which would change our hearts and where God would fill us with His Spirit (all flesh, not just superchristians).

'Wait in the city until...'

- 'Stay in the city until..'- What is the until? Until Jesus accomplishes what He came to do- see John 7:37- 'for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified'- not yet ascended to the Father to receive the full inheritance at the right hand of the Father- the right to pour out the Spirit on us.
- No longer need to tarry. Tarrying meetings not necessary. No further record in Acts of waiting around. Acts examples of people receiving immediately- Gentiles, Paul,- therefore Not straining to receive, or emptying of the glass to be filled, or sanctifying ourselves to receive, or pleading with God- simply believe! Commanded to 'be filled' in Eph 5
- Revival- sov. Work of God? Although Hebrides looked like sovereign move of God (e.g. people called to meeting in middle of night), it was triggered by people simply believing the promise of Is 44:3 'I will pour water on him that is thirsty'. This triggered off a revival in the whole community. John 7:37 'If any man is thirsty let him come to me and drink'; woman at well John 4- 'water I give him, he will never thirst'; 'times of refreshing may come from the Lord'. Snowdon spring-so refreshing!
- Are you ready to drink today? Don't need to wait till tomorrow.

'...you have been clothed with power from on high'

- Rachel in Sumo suit. Gideon clothed in power- 'The Spirit of the Lord put on Gideon' (Judges 6:34). My experience of being clothed with power
- Picture of God overwhelming us with His Spirit- not just a trickle
- 'God does not give His Spirit by measure'- John 3:34- Matt Henry 'The Spirit dwelt in Him, not as a vessel, but as in a fountain, as in a bottomless ocean'- God wants to give you more than a thimble full of Holy Spirit- He is generous!
- John 7:37-39- '...let him come to me and drink.. out of his belly will flow rivers of living water'- last day of feast of Tabernacles- each day levites drew out water from siloam and poured it on the altar- belief that river in Ezekiel would flow out from temple when Messiah came- Jesus saying we will become like mobile temples with roaring rivers of Spirit pouring out from our lives causing life wherever it flows- this is the book of Acts- river flows around world- same also in Welsh revival.
- There is a measure of faith/grace (Rom 12, Eph 4) i.e. We have faith for different things, but God does not put a limit on how much Holy Spirit He will allow us to have. He is a generous dad (you even though evil give good gifts, how much more)

'...you have been clothed with power from on high'

- Dunamis=power=dynamite. The Holy Spirit makes all the difference
- We need the Holy Spirit constantly
- 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
- Book of Acts
- -examples from men & women of God
- John Allison in Stoneleigh- 'this is no joke'
- Power to be witnesses to mankind.

Conclusion

- The gift of the Holy Spirit is for you. Receive Him now.

Song: Prayer- baptism Spirit. Back problems, esp. serious, bent spine