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THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR POWERHOUSE AND ENABLER

Acts 19:1-2 *While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"*

On Paul's arrival at Ephesus, he found some disciples and asked them a strange question. The text does not tell us whose disciples they were, and some consider them unbelievers who appeared to be disciples; but, since Paul was not sure, he asked them about the Holy Spirit. Their answer stuns us. Even John had talked about the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16), and one would certainly expect his followers to respond differently. From what we know in this brief account, these men were even less advanced than Apollos, placing their singular focus on John the Baptist.

So, why was Paul so concerned that the disciples received Him? Why is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the disciple so significant?

As far as Paul was concerned, the Holy Spirit is every disciple's Powerhouse and an Enabler, and he wanted these disciples to know and appreciate this fact.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon people at various times for specific purposes. He did not indwell people permanently—everything changes when Jesus comes. Before Jesus was on earth, the Holy Spirit was present in the world but did not remain in or upon people. He will fill them for specific tasks. God had something different planned a Joel, the prophet said it (Joel 2:28-30) Then Jesus himself talked about the Spirit coming. Jesus said that he was leaving but sending the Holy Spirit to us.

Acts 1 says we will be baptised by the Spirit and 1 Corinthians says we were all baptised by the Spirit into the Body of Christ.

What is the Role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a disciple?

1. The Holy Spirit regenerates disciple.

The Holy Spirit is the reason we become born again. Titus 3:5, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. John 6:63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes

nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. The Holy Spirit came into disciple's life and saved disciple through rebirth.

2. The Holy Spirit baptises disciple into the Body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit baptises disciple into the body of Christ. It's simple. God comes to live inside of the disciple. The Holy Spirit's Baptism is placing the Christian into the Body of Christ and Christ Himself. We are baptised by the Spirit into the Body of Christ. We are now in Christ. Ephesians 1:13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.

3. The Holy Spirit Indwells disciple.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not indwell people. He came upon them. In the OT, people had to travel to the temple to be near the presence of God. When Jesus died on the cross, the temple's veil was torn from top to bottom and access to the Holy of Holies was available to all. Now the Holy Spirit lives in us.

4. The Holy Spirit identifies disciple as belonging to Jesus.

When we belong to Jesus, it implies ownership and protection.

5. The Holy Spirit is the deposit of God's promise for the disciple.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. A deposit is paid when buying a house to signify you are going actually to buy the house. Holy Spirit is God's down payment in our lives, and there is much more in our future, the power to overcome, eternal and abundant life, joy, peace

6. The Holy Spirit Fills the disciple

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere-in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Simply put, no disciple can be true, effective, and functioning as our Lord desires without the indwelling and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in his/her life.

As believers and disciples of our Lord, let us remember that however inadequate we may feel, the Holy Spirit is more significant than our intellect, talent, and ability. The Holy Spirit is also bigger than our past, our culture, and our logic.

As we journey through this new year 2021, I pray that we would have the grace to submit ourselves more to the Lordship and the control of the Holy Spirit in serving our Lord and Saviour Jesus for His glory.

Happy New Year.

Samson

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me

Break me, Melt me Mould me, Fill me

Spirit of the Living God

Fall fresh on me



Recordings of Services at The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul at Kimpton are available on the website: www.kimptonchurch.co.uk

