

Title: DRINKING OF THE ONE SPIRIT, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3-13
(Chatham, NJ; 06/08/14, AM) [D – Topical: Order of Climax]

Theme: The Holy Spirit is active from the very beginning of the Bible and is given to the church as a promised Helper and a sustaining presence.

Purpose: To develop a deeper understanding of the presence of the Holy Spirit and to encourage us to seek the goals of Christian living that are the bedrock of His activities.

Introduction:

1. We believe the Holy Spirit is present but often forget His power to renew and strengthen.
2. Jesus promised to send Him as a Helper, and he told the Apostles they would receive power from on high.
3. The Gospel of John reveals His coming (7:39) and connects to the message of forgiveness (20:22-23).
4. We are aware of His presence early in the Bible (Genesis 1:1) though He is much like the wind: we see the trees affected but cannot see the wind itself.
5. Several passages tell us about Him.

I. Psalm 104:29 - 30

A. Sustains Creation

1. Atheism denies the most basic of all beliefs: God created and sustains all things.
2. Romans 1:18-20, sin takes root when people deny and suppress this truth
3. In 1802 William Paley wrote *Natural Theology* in which he argued for design in nature: if you found a watch on the ground, you'd have to assume someone with intelligence made it; it didn't just happen.
4. The watch displays "the purposeful arrangement of parts," as does the human eye and many other complex features of plants and animals.
5. We are aware of this by faith, Hebrews 11:3, though faith is not a leap devoid of reasonable perceptions by our senses.

B. The Spirit was active in Israel

1. In Numbers 11:24-30 the Spirit falls on seventy elders to endow them with leadership and wisdom
2. The Spirit enters David when anointed by Samuel, 1 Samuel 16:13.
3. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts," Zech. 4:6.

II. Jesus, Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit

A. Anticipating John's promises

1. Matthew 3:11 – John the Baptist promises what Jesus will do
2. Those in the Kingdom are greater than John probably because we possess the Spirit of God
3. The Gospel of John and the Spirit: John 7:37-39 (streams of living water); John 20:22-23 (forgiveness).

B. Receiving the gift

1. The Holy Spirit comes with baptism, Acts 2:38
2. This fulfills John the Baptist's prediction
3. The presence of the Holy Spirit affirmed for Peter that God invited the Gentiles to participate in salvation
4. In Acts 11:15-18 he defends his actions
5. His argument: He quotes John; he could not resist God;
6. Conclusion: God had granted repentance unto life (remember John 20:22-23)
7. The Spirit points to the message of the Gospel

III. In the Life of the Church

A. The Holy Spirit and the Message

1. Acts 7:51 – resisting the Holy Spirit tantamount to resisting God's messengers and God's message.

2. Eph. 6:17 – Word of God = sword of Spirit

3. Accompanied by signs, Heb. 2:4, but mostly to affirm the message.

C. Primary role is sanctification (my main point)

1. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 extraordinary displays are secondary to love

2. In 14:12 – even if the Bible taught that the gifts were to continue, they are meant for building up the church

3. Eph. 4:30 – grieving the H. S. set in context with proper speech and behavior

4. Thus the primary focus of the Holy Spirit is building up and sanctifying the community of believers

5. The miraculous wonders do not comprise His primary role

6. He works for the common good, 1 Corinthians 12:7

7. He should, therefore, be a unifying force, 12:12-13

Conclusions:

1. How we engage Him: in copying the prayers inspired by the Spirit (Psalms and NT), we follow the movement of the Spirit in mind and heart.

2. A recent survey found that among Christians, those who read and prayed three or more times a week were more likely to remain sexually pure than those who didn't (*Salvo*, Summer 2014, 33)

3. Harsh words and unforgiving attitudes grieve Him, Eph. 4:30.

4. He comes to live in us in baptism, Acts 2:38, and thus enables forgiveness and redemption.

5. Through prayer and the Word of God, we stir him to action and find power to live.