

Title: ANTICIPATING THE SPIRIT, JOHN 7:37-39 & 20:19-23.
(Chatham, NJ; 06/12/11, AM) [E – Narrative; Inner/Outer Man Impression]

Theme: The disciples anticipated the arrival of the Holy Spirit because of Christ's promises, and He came on Pentecost to provide life and power and forgiveness.

Purpose: By following the promises of Christ for the Spirit's arrival I will seek to describe what the Holy Spirit does for our inner being.

Introduction:

1. John the Baptist first predicts the arrival of the Holy Spirit, Mt. 3:11.
2. Citizens of the Kingdom are greater than John, Mt. 11:11, because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.
3. John, the Apostle, implies his activity in John 1:12, and he anticipates His presence in the process of rebirth in John 3:5.
4. The promises of Christ build suspense and anticipation for his coming.

I. Anticipation #1 – John 7:37 - 39

- A. Inner Man: Streams of living water will flow from the one who drinks of Jesus.
 1. Isaiah 12:3 and Ezekiel 47:1 mysteriously allude to this.
 2. John says this was a reference to the Spirit that believers were to receive.
 3. They were to receive this only after Jesus was glorified.
 4. Living water reminds us of the discussion with the Samaritan woman.
 5. I connect it with Paul's assurance in Eph. 3:14-19 that we can find strength from God in our inner being.
 6. See John Adams' quote.
 7. Paul Harvey used to say, "Self-government won't work without self-discipline."
 8. Moving away from the inner help we receive from the Holy Spirit moves us closer and closer to someone else providing the discipline for us, and it will likely happen in a more totalitarian form.
- B. The outer man doesn't yet perceive what is going on here.
 1. Those who listen to Jesus in John's Gospel keep missing the spiritual side of what Jesus says.
 2. Yet they are intrigued.
 3. In verses 40-43, some people recognized the voice of God in this.
 4. Those sent to arrest him were disarmed by his words, 46.
 5. Nicodemus spoke up on his behalf, 51.
 6. In all this the Spirit is at work to draw them to Jesus.

II. Anticipation #2 – John 20:19 – 23

- A. Inner man addressed
 1. Directly connected with forgiveness, man's greatest need.
 2. Jesus endows the church with the power of forgiveness.
 3. This power to forgive is the prerogative of God alone, Mk. 2:7, but Jesus demonstrated his right to give it.
 4. David recognized the direct relationship between our sin and God, Ps. 51:4.
- B. Outer man
 1. External rituals weren't sufficient to cleanse consciences, Heb. 9:13-14; 10:1-4.
 2. The new covenant reached beyond outer rituals into the heart, Heb. 8:10.
 3. It is the difference between shadow and reality.
 4. When the whole man is engaged from the inside out, then real change can take place, Mt. 12:34b-35.

- C. The time grew closer in Acts 1:5.
1. Wait and you'll receive power.
 2. Pentecost climaxed what Jesus promised.

III. The Arrival on Pentecost, Acts 2

- The power of the resurrection, 2:24, Eph. 1:19-20.
- The power to witness, 2:32, 1 Peter 3:15-16.
- The power of forgiveness, 2:38, Eph. 4:32.
- The power of living water, Romans 8:10-11, is the power of the resurrected life.
- It is also the power to give hope and live according to the will of God.

Conclusions:

1. Stir up the Holy Spirit within you!
2. Avail yourself of his power!
3. It is the power of his presence through prayer, Romans 8:26 and the inspired Word of God, 2 Tim. 3:15-17.
4. He is also the deposit guaranteeing what is to come, Eph. 1:13 – 14.
5. The more we give ourselves to the Spirit and reject the flesh, Rom. 8:6, the more we are alive and enjoy peace with God.
6. Obey the Gospel and receive him today.