

Pentecost
May 24, 2015

"The Holy Spirit's Mighty Power in Your Life"

JOHN 14:25-27

All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor (Comforter), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples on Pentecost there was the sound of a mighty rushing wind, but no wind. The Hebrew word for spirit is "ruach" which means air or wind or breath. The Greek word is "pneuma" which also means breath or air. Pneumatic tools are tools that are run by air. They have lots of power.

Wind has great power. Think of the power of the wind to generate storms, whip up the waves in the ocean, or even drive turbines to generate electricity. I recently heard that the state of North Dakota has enough wind to generate all the electricity needed in the United States.

As powerful as the wind is, it cannot compare to the Holy Spirit that is present in your life. Let's listen more closely to what Jesus tells us about the mighty power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Holy Spirit has the power to help us remember

Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit or Counselor has the power to help us recall and remember what has been taught to us. "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Can you imagine what it must have been like to be one of Jesus' disciples and have the privilege of listening to Jesus for three years? On this night before he dies he gathers the disciples around him to teach them things that Christians of every age never want to forget. He tells us, "I am going to prepare a place for you" and "I will come back and take you to be with me." He tells us he is the vine and we are the branches. He says such things as "You may ask for anything in my name and I will do it." They did not have recorders with them to record the words of Jesus. They did not have one of the disciples writing frantically on a scroll. They had the Holy Spirit to help them recall the words of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit's mighty power enabled the disciples to remember the words of Jesus and write them down. John says of the words he wrote in John 20, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John was probably not there when a man named Nicodemus came to talk to Jesus by night. But John knew exactly what Jesus said to this man. He wrote

the words that the Holy Spirit gave to him so we have them in our Bible today. Every time we close our lesson with the children in the shelter we use words Jesus spoke that were given to John by the Holy Spirit. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

Moses was not there when God created the heavens and the earth, yet Moses was able to give an accurate account of how the world began. He was able to write about something he had not seen personally because the words were given to him by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter chapter one says, "Holy men of God spoke as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit." 1 Corinthians chapter 2 says that the no human mind can see what God has prepared for those who love him, but God reveals these things to us by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is such a powerful force in your life because he leads you to accept what is written in the Bible is true. He uses these words to change your life. This past week I was reading in the book of Joshua for my personal devotions. There are about five chapters devoted to giving detailed account of dividing the land to the different tribes. There is an endless list of names of different cities and places that goes on for five chapters. At first I thought, why did the Lord put all these different names in these chapters? But then you begin to realize that such a listing shows how important this land was. This is the place where Jesus would live the perfect life I could never live and offer the perfect sacrifice for my sins. This is where the source of my salvation and peace with God would be established. The powerful Holy Spirit uses every part of the Bible to bring us closer to the truth that God wants all people to be saved through the sacrifice of his Son on the cross.

Do you see what a powerful force the Holy Spirit is in your life? First the Holy Spirit miraculously brings the mind of God to us through the verbally inspired words of the Bible. Then the Holy Spirit convinces us they are true. And then the Holy Spirit helps us remember what we have learned. Jesus says the Counselor or Holy Spirit "will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

When my father was dying I was able to spend some time with him prior to his death. He had reached the point where it was hard for him to get up from the bed and walk by himself. One afternoon he insisted that he wanted to get up and sit at the dining room table. I helped him walk and sit down. Then he asked for his glasses and he asked for this Bible that I am holding in my hand. He was read from 1 Corinthians poring over the verses word by word. The Holy Spirit was helping him remember everything God's Word had taught him.

Over your lifetime in the word of God, the Holy Spirit has given you a priceless repository of amazing promises the Lord you have come to cherish. Some of these words you have committed to memory. Some are very familiar and when you hear them you are drawn closer to these promises. Your wonderful and powerful Holy Spirit is always in the process of helping you remember things that have been taught to you.

A college student was going through a hard patch in her life. Then she remembered a little box she had. In the little box were special promises she discovered in God's Word which she had written down on the note cards. She reached for the box with a prayer that said, "Lord, just give me a promise that will help me!" The box fell out her hands and the

promises were scattered all over the floor. She laughed to herself as she said, "Why did I only ask for one promise?" The Holy Spirit is so good at connecting you to verses of the Bible that will sustain you in your most difficult days of life. Even when your mind starts to slip in your old age the Holy Spirit will help you remember how much Jesus cares for you and loves you.

The symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove. The dove is also used as a symbol of peace. This mighty, powerful Holy Spirit is always directing you to the peace you have in Jesus your Savior.

The Holy Spirit has the power to bring us peace

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Jesus wants us to know that the peace he gives us is different from the peace which this world wants. We long for peace in our land, and in our cities, and in our homes and in our personal lives. On this Memorial Day weekend we are thankful for the soldiers who gave their lives so we can enjoy peace in this country. We put flags in front of our homes to show us how much we appreciate this peace. Most of us sitting here do not deal very well with conflict in our homes, conflict at our jobs, conflict with our families or even conflict with neighbors. The very first child ever born into this world killed his brother. There will always be conflict. The world may give us temporary peace but it does not last very long. Immediately after Adam fell into sin he accused his wife of giving him the forbidden fruit.

Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." We all come into this world fighting against God. We all come with the attitude that sings defiantly, "I'll do it my way." Romans 5:10 says that we were once enemies of God. My sinful nature foolishly tells me that I can make my peace with God. It tells me that if I can work at living peacefully with other people, I can also live at peace with God by trying to earn his favor and gain forgiveness from him. Remember how the lost son went home to his father with the hope of being a hired servant to earn back some favor from the loving father he had offended. Maybe a delinquent child can return home and restore the relationship with his parents, but we cannot do this with God. Sin separates us from. It destroys our peace with God. In Isaiah 48:10 the Lord says, "There is no peace for the wicked."

The night of Jesus' resurrection his disciples were hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. But there was an even greater fear in these disciples. It was the fear of being rejected by God for their unfaithfulness to Jesus. That night Jesus suddenly appeared to them and said, "Shalom lechem." "Peace to you." Then he showed them nail prints in his hands and it says they were overjoyed to see the Lord. They were overjoyed because Jesus gave them his peace. By showing them the nail marks he assured them their sins were forgiven, that he loved them and that he would always be with them.

My greatest need in life is to know that I have peace with God. I cannot even begin to remove one sin that separates me from God. Jesus has to do this for me and he did. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." To be justified means to be "declared not guilty." Jesus has done everything, absolutely everything to declare us not guilty so we can have

peace with our God. Peace with God is not just the end of eternal death and punishment, it is the peace of knowing you are God's child. The joy the lost son had when he was home, is the joy you have every day in your life as you wake up knowing you are a dear child of God through Jesus.

The Holy Spirit brings this peace to you constantly throughout your life. Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." How many times did this mighty wind, this mighty Holy Spirit, remind you that you are a dear child of God this past week? Hundreds of times, thousands, often without you even realizing it. Jesus wants you to fix your life on the peace he has given you. That is why he gives you this mighty wind that constantly blows in our life. How can we ever thank the Holy Spirit enough for what he is doing for us? Amen.