

“ADJ - Church in Acts Part 3” (9-18-22)

Series Review: The Church's origin, mission, & message. Today - Holy Spirit plays central role to fulfill this!

Today: The Church - The dwelling place of the Holy Spirit

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit . . .

Acts 1:4-5 (ESV)

(4) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

John 14:16-17, 16:7 (ESV)

(16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you . . . (16:7) Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Note: This is a radical promise - God coming to dwell within people!

The Temple has been the dwelling place of God among his people. It's a picture of a heavenly reality (see: Hebrews) & reflects God's ultimate plan to live with and in all people who will receive Him!

1) The Old Temple (The Old Covenant - a picture of God's ultimate plan)

• The Tabernacle of Moses

Exodus 40:34-35 (ESV)

(34) Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (35) And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

• The Temple of Solomon

1 Kings 8:10-11 (ESV)

(10) And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, (11) so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

The Result . . .

- The **Presence** of God filled this dwelling place!

Exodus 25:8 (ESV)

And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

- The **Likeness** of God (holy, consecrated, set apart - made clean through the system of sacrifice)

Exodus 40:9, 12-13 (ESV)

(9) “Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy . . . (12) Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water (13) and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest.

The Day of Atonement . . .

Leviticus 16:30, 33 (ESV)

(30) For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins . . . (33) He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

- The **Power** of God (Fire & Cloud led them)

Exodus 40:36-38 (ESV)

(36) Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. (37) But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. (38) For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

2) The New Temple (The New Covenant - fulfilled & perfected by Jesus)

Matthew 27:50-51 (ESV)

(50) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. (51) And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Note: A new (more perfect) way is made! Sacrifice is over & access to the presence of God is available!

Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV)

(25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

The Results of the work of Jesus and the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit . . .

- **The Presence of Jesus** - (example: The upper room prayer service)

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

(1) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- **The Likeness of Jesus** - (example: Peter & John right after lame man healed)

Acts 4:13 (ESV)

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

- **The Power of Jesus** - (example: power to be witnesses & now able to fulfill mission & share message)

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Personal Application: Throughout the Book of Acts we see these results at work in & thru his followers . . .

Acts 16:25-31 (ESV)

(25) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, (26) and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. (27) When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. (28) But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." (29) And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. (30) Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (31) And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- **His Presence is with me anywhere** - I can worship him even in chains! (The temple is now mobile!)
- **His Likeness is being cultivated in me** - I can reflect him anywhere I go! (Surrounded by people in need)
- **His Power is ever present with me** - to fulfill the church's mission & deliver His message

Notice: Freedom from physical chains, & spiritual chains - power of salvation even for our enemies!

Conclusion: I am now the temple of God, the place where His Spirit resides - He is with me, He is cultivating Christ-likeness in me, and His power is present to work through me!

I can participate in the fulfillment of the Church's Mission (Love God & People) and carry His Message everywhere I go because His presence is with me!

For Further Study & Reflection: read **John chapters 14-17** which is essential for understanding Jesus' heart & intention for us to be Spirit-filled and therefore deeply connected to God, growing love for one-another, and living as a light for a world in need.