



Spirit Empowered C H U R C H

Spirit Empowered Church

Part 6

July 31, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Mark 16:14-20, ¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they

will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word. Amen.

You may be seated...

Today we will be concluding our Spirit Empower Church series during which it is my goal to ultimately conclude with tying the Message of the Cross and the Power of the Holy Ghost together as Christ did in Saint Mark’s Gospel account. It is at this intersection of Scripture that we find ourselves hearing the clarion call of the Messiah concerning The Great Commission. It is this Great Commission that ultimately gave a Great Mission to the Church which was to perpetuate this Gospel Message until Christ returns for His Glorious Church.

We, who count ourselves faithful to the Full Gospel Message as well as beholden to authentic Pentecostal Expression, value the Gospel Message and our Full Gospel Experience. And it is this message and expression that needs to be returned to its place of preeminence in our lives and in our churches. This is vitally important to the current health and future impact of the church itself.

Being Spirit Empowered with being Spiritually assigned with a mission is to have power with no target to aim for. And Church, I'm here to remind you today that we have both; we have power and we have purpose! Point #1...

1. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Spiritually Commissioned Church!

a. Notice with me verses 15-16, “¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

b. Church, we have been assigned with the holy responsibility to ensure that the Message of the Messiah is declared into this generation!

c. We have an amazing responsibility to echo the call of the ages of mankind to repent of their sins and turn their hearts back to God through His Christ! Listen to the Words of the Apostle Paul to his son in the faith, Timothy found in 2 Timothy 1:8-10...

d. 2 Timothy 1:8-10, “⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but

because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel...”

- e. Church, we have been saved and called unto a holy calling! May we not take for granted our salvation nor our calling because in the end, it is all we have.
- f. Remember, A Spirit Empowered Church is a Spiritually Commissioned Church! We have been called unto a Holy Calling!
- g. Point #2...

2. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Spiritually Gifted Church!

- a. Notice with me verses 17-18, “¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- b. With this text in mind, I am aware that Christendom is abundant with theological and doctrinal views regarding the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the manifestation of Spiritual Gifts, and furthermore the arguments posed either for or against such previously noted points. Over the past several months, I have done my best to use the Word of God to defend, explain, and define doctrine and our views of the Holy Spirit and the manifestations thereof.
- c. But to further solidify our stance and doctrinal views, I find it to be prudent to observe what the Teachings were of the Early Church Fathers and not just their teachings but their quotes and statements made within books that they wrote.
- d. One such noted person is Justin Martyr who lived from 100AD to 165AD, Justin would have been one of the “second generation” leaders to follow after the death of the Apostles. In his book “Dialogue with Trypho”, in chapter 82 he made the following statement, “For the prophetic gifts remain with us, even to present time.” He goes on to state in chapter 88, the following, “Now, it is possible to see among us women and men who possess gifts of the Spirit of God.”

- e. Now why is this so important? Because the Doctrinal Stance of Cessation is eroded by the writing of the Early Church Fathers who did not condemn nor retract such gifts of the spirit nor the manifestations thereof but actually recorded that during his time there were those who still possessed the gifts of the Holy Ghost!
- f. Another noted early church father named Irenaeus who lived from 130AD to 202AD wrote in his book entitled “Against Heresies” found in 2:32:4, “Those who are in truth Jesus’ disciples, receiving grace from Him, do in His name perform miracles, so as to promote the welfare of other men, according to the gift which each one has received from Him. For some do certainly and truly drive out devils, so that those who have thus been cleansed from evil spirits frequently both believe in Christ, and join themselves to the Church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions, and utter prophetic expressions. Others still heal the sick by laying their hands upon them, and they are made whole. Yea, moreover, as I have said, the dead even have been raised up, and remained among us for many years”

g. Church family, if Jesus said that those whom are born again and filled with the spirit would cast out demons, speak with new tongues, work miracles, survive poisoning, and lay hands on the sick and see them recover; if the Apostle Paul wrote entire chapters of letters to churches teaching on the proper use and etiquette of such gifts; and if the early church fathers wrote about said gifts still manifesting some 100-150 years after the ascension of Christ. I just have one question: if the Doctrine of Cessation is Doctrinally Correct, (if the Gifts of the Holy Spirit have been done away with) then how is it that the Gifts of the Spirit were still manifesting some 100 years after the death of the last Apostle?

h. Church family, we are called unto Christ by the leading of the Holy Spirit and we are empowered by His Spirit to live out His commandments and His Commission; and it is the Holy Spirit that empowers us to spiritually gifted! And finally, Point #3...

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3. A Spirit Empowered Church is a Spiritually Impactful Church!

- a. Notice with me verses 19-20, “¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”
- b. We believe in the Great Commission! All the Gospel to All the World!
- c. We believe in the Supernatural Power of God! We believe in Signs and Wonders worked by the Holy Ghost!
- d. We believe in the Spirit Empowered Church because We, The Assembly West Monroe, are a Spirit Filled Church!