

XXVI. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Perspective

Led by the Spirit

“The Anointing of the Holy Spirit”

Luke 12:8–12

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October 30, 2016 – Morning sermon

We will start by looking at I John 2 and then at I John 4. I John 2:18–27 says [18] *Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. [19] They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. [20] But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. [21] I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. [22] Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. [23] No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. [24] Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. [25] And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.*

[26] I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. [27] But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

On October 31, Reformation Day, 499 years ago, there came a monk who had begun teaching the book of Galatians and Romans in 1515. He had gone through personal trials of examination and had done everything that was told in the acts of penance and ritual to try to gain peace with God, but he had no peace with God. Yet his very teaching and the mentors he sought out, brought him back to the book of Romans and Galatians. There he found peace with God in that glorious verse found in Romans 5:1 which says [1] *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* It through faith by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone that we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ and it filled his soul. He saw the corruption in the leadership and clergy. He saw the corruption of doctrine in the church and how it was used to manipulate people in the church giving them false hopes with a gospel that wasn’t a gospel which denied the very Gospel.

He knew the foundational issue of saving faith and he knew that because the Scripture alone is our only rule of faith and practice. There with his confidence in the inerrant and infallible Word he wrote out 95 theses and probably what put him over the edge was the manipulation of a John Tezel who would go from city to city preying upon the fears and anxieties of people who had lost loved one with a fabricated doctrine called the doctrine of purgatory and a fabricated means of salvation which by the indulgences of the church you can be saved if your offering is big enough and successful enough. He even devised a saying on this as he went around trying to collect money from people that said; *when in the coffer a coin does ring, then from purgatory another soul will spring.*

At the cathedral door at Wittenburg, Martin Luther nails 95 theses and the most fundamental foundation of all is written that the Scripture alone is our only rule for faith and practice. That is what he did on October 31. Now what would happen on November 1, and 2nd and 3rd? The very thing that happened then is what happened on October 31. It was the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon a Reformer.

This year we have been walking our way through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, being led by the Spirit of God. The positive is found in Romans 8:14 which says [14] *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* The negative is also found for if we are not led by the Spirit then we do not belong to Him. To understand what it meant to be led by the Spirit of God we spent an expositional series in Romans 8 and John 13 through 17 which was the final sermon of Jesus as He focuses on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Then we began to take up the individual subjects on the Spirit that are addressed in the Word of God. One that we looked at was blasphemy of the Holy Spirit which is the sin of someone who has been repeatedly exposed to the Word of God and then declaring the Spirit of God's call with the Word of God to Christ as profane. This becomes an unpardonable sin for one simple reason. Pardon for any and all of our sins is only found in Jesus and the only way you get to Jesus is by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God has come to bring you to Jesus so if you reject the Spirit and call profane what He has said then you don't come to Jesus. Therefore it is an unpardonable to blaspheme the Holy Spirit because it keeps you from the only One who will pardon your sin. It also has another effect in that God sometimes for those who repeatedly do it, closes the door of grace prior to the door of death. The heart is hardened and there is no hope even on this side of eternity.

We begin to examine ourselves and want to know what the blessedness of the Spirit is. That led us to the calling of the Spirit and baptism with the Spirit that Jesus Christ will first bring you to Christ, from death unto life, by the regenerating power of the Spirit so anyone reading this who belongs to Christ then two things have happened to you. You have had a resurrection for you have been brought from sin's tomb to life in Christ. You were dead in your sins and now you are born again. Secondly, you have had a heart transplant. Your old heart was cut out and a new heart was given to you.

Then He baptizes you with the Holy Spirit. This is the fulfillment by Christ of the prophetic promise of the Father. In the Old Testament the Father said He would do a New Covenant for He was going to bring a new Israel from all the nations of the earth and He will sprinkle clean water upon them as He pours His Spirit upon them. From the least of them to the greatest, they will all be His people. He baptizes them with His Spirit. So Jesus by the power of the Spirit redeems us as He comes forth from the grave and ascends to heaven for then He pours His Spirit upon us which was initiated at the Day of Pentecost and continues in the life of every believer. As His Spirit is poured out upon the believer they are sealed in Christ and Christ is sealed in them.

Because He is in you then you now walk by the Spirit. You are led by the Spirit and He does that as you keep in step with the Spirit. As we walk with the Spirit we are being filled with the Spirit resulting in the fruit of the Spirit in our life. There is a trinity that has saved you for the Father has authored your salvation, the Son has accomplished it and the Spirit has effectually applied it. In Acts 2 we see today which is the promise of the Father, poured out by the Son with power from the Spirit.

On the way to eternity in this glorious day of our salvation, we are not walking through friendly territory. There is a trinity in opposition to you from the kingdom of darkness. It is the

world, the flesh and the devil. The world is the enemy outside of you that is in rebellion against God that wants to infiltrate, intimidate and marginalize you. Then there is an enemy inside of you which is the old man, the flesh where we keep thinking that it is all about me and even my Christianity is done with self-reliance instead of God-reliance. We keep looking to our self in self-reliance, self-absorption, self-confidence, self-promotion and self-authentication. The sovereign self is the way of the flesh and independence from God. Then there is another enemy in the devil with the lust of the flesh and eyes and boastful pride of life is constantly moving to rob us of our joy, testimony, marriage, ministry and our assurance in Christ.

How does Satan do this? He has three schemes. They are infiltration, imitation and intimidation. He loves to infiltrate the church with false teaching and preaching and that is what happened in the days of Martin Luther. He loves to corrupt leadership, corrupt doctrine and lead people to unfaithfulness to Christ in the promotion of man-made religion. Man-made religions try to imitate the real thing. There is also intimidation where Satan would like to make you walk in anxiety or fear for he goes about like a roaring lion. Why does a lion roar? A lion roars for fear. Fear paralyzes. Satan always wants to intimidate the church of Jesus Christ and the believer because when he does that he silences, paralyzes and marginalizes them.

So what is our hope? Our hope in those days of the schemes of Satan is found in Christ and the Spirit of God whom He has poured out in us, whom we are walking with, whom we are being filled with and He will give us multiple anointings in the days of challenge. We get through those times with the clarity of God's Word and the insight and power of the Spirit of God who in those times is there with us.

He was there with Martin Luther. He brought him from his conversion in 1515 all the way to 1517 when he boldly nailed those 95 theses on the door of the cathedral, knowing there would be much yet to pay on November 1 and afterwards. He saw through it because he had the anointing. Jesus allows the Kingdom of God to grow as the evil empire of Satan strikes out. There is not only a 'the anti-Christ' but there are anti-Christ's now because we're in the last hour. As soon as Jesus ascended the last hour began so until He comes again we are in that last hour. These anti-Christ's are workers of Satan and are doing his work all over and especially in the church. It's the presence of the Holy Spirit who will enable you in that day to stand the test.

Let's see how this is handled in I John 4. This anointing is with you even though there are these anti-Christ's around you. According to I John 2 which we read earlier, Jesus has anointed you with the Holy Spirit and the Spirit will anoint you in the day of trial, adversity and the onslaughts of the schemes of Satan. Now let's look at I John 4. Preaching and teaching is crucial but every time someone stands to preach it doesn't mean you have to believe it. Test it with the Word of God and by the Spirit of God.

I John 4:1-6 says *[1] Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. [2] By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [3] and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. [4] Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. [5] They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. [6] We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

I love to read. Today when they do movies many times they will have a screening where the director is there explaining what he is doing in the movie and that is what I'd like

when I read a good book. I would love to have the author there at times explaining to me the meaning behind what he wrote. Do you have your Bible? The Author is with you. The Holy Spirit is with you for the One who empowered 40 plus human authors to write His Word is right there with you to bear witness to preaching and teaching that is faithful to it.

Take the Bible and compare it. The Bereans received the Word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures to see if the things they were hearing were so. We also test it by the Spirit and if the Spirit is there then Christ is being exalted in the preaching. The glory of the Father through Christ our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer is being proclaimed. This Christ has come in the flesh to save us. If they don't confess Christ then it is not from the Spirit of God. The Spirit of truth is in you so that you know those who are preaching and teaching the truth. Martin Luther knew from the Word and the Holy Spirit within him that what he was hearing was not the truth. There was a corrupt clergy, corrupt doctrine, corrupt ritual and it was bringing death to those who put their trust in anything other than the Word of Truth by the power of the Spirit of truth because he had been anointed and that same anointing is with you. Sometimes we get caught unaware in this world. What can we do in the moments we haven't prepared for? How can we stand in those days? Martin Luther didn't know all that was coming for him. Did he stand in those days?

Now let's look at Luke 12. In this passage the Apostles are being sent out by the Lord and they are repeatedly told not to be fearful or anxious. I'm not going to be able to cover everything the Lord says in this chapter that is an antidote to fear except one. Luke 12:8-12 says [8] *"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges (confesses) me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, (When we confess Jesus before men He will be confessing us before His Father and the angels.) [9] but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. [10] And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. [11] And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, [12] for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."*

There are anointings at the moment of need according to verse 12. In the day of intimidation He will be with you and will teach you, instruct you, in that very hour what you ought to say and how you ought to say it. Let's look at the occasion. You are on mission and you are lifting up Christ. You are evangelizing, discipling and making disciples at home, work, school and in your neighborhood, wherever you are. You are confessing Christ before me. When you are on message, on mission and in ministry because you love Him then He says that you can expect that the world will deliver you over. Notice He doesn't say 'if' they deliver you but He says 'when' they deliver you.

Some are delivered over more than others like the Apostles. Peter and John were taken three times to the Sanhedrin and so was Paul. Paul was taken to prison multiple times. Paul stood in front of Festus, Felix and Agrippa who had the power to take his life. Paul was flogged with 39 lashes. He was stoned. He was thrown over a wall. He was constantly marginalized. When Paul was thrown over the wall and it didn't kill him he got right back up and walked back into the city. No fear! The Apostles become particular recipients of this but it also overflows to us.

For 2,000 years believers have been delivered over to state and religious authorities with the power of life and death but do not fear those who can only kill the body. What will I do in that day? The Spirit is with me and He will give me what to say and how to say it in that very

hour of trial. His command to us is not to be anxious for greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Jesus gives these glorious promises for us not to fear or be anxious in those times with a timely communication of how to say and what we need to say in those moments of need. So call upon Him in that day. There are things we can prepare for and there are things we are not prepared for but God is prepared for us.

I know Sunday is coming every week and I try to get prepared for it. I meet with the Spirit for hours upon hours but this moment that I think is the most important hour of the week in prayer, sacrament and the Word, falls on me because I am responsible before God and that is why I don't sleep on Saturday nights. It's like the man whose mother woke him up one Sunday and said 'get up, let's go to church' and he said 'I'm not going, they don't like me.' She said 'Son, you're going whether they like you or not and you're going for two reasons – one you ought to and two you're the preacher.' So here is this moment where I say 'Lord, please help me. Help me in the study and help me when I go to the pulpit to use what You have given me but not depend upon it but depend upon You. Give me what and how to say it. I don't want to just chew up a manuscript and spit it out.'

I have had other experiences like that. That one was where I was prepared. Here is another one where I was unprepared. After I was converted my wife and I moved back to East Carolina where I went back to college. Chronologically I'm in my junior year but academically I was just barely in my freshman year because of what I had done the years before I was converted. I was taking psychology 101 with 350 students in the class. There is this burgeoning PhD man teaching the class that decides he is going to remove any vestiges or notion that Christianity has anything to do with psychological health. I'm newly converted and feel I'm the smartest man in the world so I raise my hand. I was humbled but we went back and forth. I was amazed that even in all of my ignorance what God allowed me to say but then I left.

Sometimes I go back to East Carolina to this fence that was outside the psychology building just to remember that moment. I left class having done battle and probably got whipped pretty good in class but I was grateful God gave me the courage to speak up in class. It was a learning experience and then when class was let out I think all 350 of those students surrounded me at that fence. Some were encouraging but probably the vast majority thought I was crazy to try and defend Christianity, thinking I was some kind of Neanderthal. In class I was hoping Josh McDowell would come over the horizon to my rescue but he didn't come. The Holy Spirit was there though. I remember the sense of peace in the presence of all that mayhem as He gives you what to say and how to say it.

You have an anointing from the Father through the Son and it's His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in days of opportunity and adversity will anoint you. There are multiple anointings and multiple platforms of life where this is done to the believer and that is why I pray with elders before I preach to ask God to anoint the preaching and worship that Christ would be exalted. I pray that people would be faithful and encouraged and those that don't know Him would be brought to Christ.

The takeaway today is two promises. Promise one is those who are led by the Spirit will confess Christ and will be persecuted, but need not fear and must not fear. If you know the Holy Spirit then you came to Christ. Christ with that Spirit now sends you to confess Him before men everywhere you are and go. Satan will attempt to intimidate you. Corporate America will threaten you with the loss of your job. Media elite, academic elite and from the halls of government there will constantly be threats and from the courtrooms of our nation.

Confess Him. Do not fear. You mustn't fear. Do not be intimidated. He will give you what to say and how to say it. In fact that leads me to my second promise.

Promise two is those who are led by the promised Spirit are promised that He will give what to say and how to say it at the right time. I want to give you seven things you can walk away with today that you can know. When you confess Him and Satan attempts to intimidate, marginalize, silence you and calls you to retreat the Holy Spirit is with you and that means seven things.

One is that you're not alone. He is with you and will never leave you nor forsake you. Two is that He will give you what to say. Three is He will give you how to say it. Four He will use what you say and how you say it for His glory for you don't know how what you say and how you say something will affect others long after you have said it. Do you think Luther had any idea when he nailed those 95 theses how it would affect those who came after him, like Calvin, Ridley, Latimer and others who took courage from what Luther did. Five, is greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world against you. Six, you may be surprised but God is not surprised for He has already told you these things will happen. Lastly, God will always be on time.

Is this an excuse for me not to be prepared in life? No, because the Bible is clear about being equipped and all of that. He is saying that there are times when you get a sneak attack against you and you're delivered up. It is in those moments that you're surprised at what comes. Perhaps it is the threat of losing your job or income or being isolated in circumstances but when those things happen do not fear because He will give you what to say and how to say it. He is with you even those others would isolate you. He is not surprised and He will be on time. He will always be with you.

For Luther he has three bouts with the Cardinal during his time. He had three disputations with John Eck. Luther taught from 1515 to 1517. Then he nails those 95 theses and then come the disputations. Then comes the debates and threats. Then comes the power of the government and the church to excommunicate him but his life also hangs in the balance. Then in 1520 and 1521 Luther stood before the Diet of Worms, a general assembly of the estates of the Holy Roman Empire, with Charles V presiding and Leo X. The power of Luther's life is at stake as he stands there all day under assault. At the end of the day Luther is asked, "Martin Luther will you recant?" He was sweating profusely because he had been through so much that day. He looked as though he was wilting and asks for time to consider his response. They gave him the evening thinking that the next day would be the recantation.

The next morning under the direction of Charles V, Luther is asked, "Will you recant of our sermons, preaching and publication? No words, no devices, plain and simple Martin Luther, will you recant?" With humility yet courage, with boldness yet no arrogance, Luther says, "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen." God had helped him, did help him and would help him.

God will help you on time. He will give you what to say and how to say it in all those arenas of life. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. The One who has sealed you is with you. The One who gave the Word of God will bring to you the Word of God. You will have no idea where it will lead. I'm sure Luther had no idea behind him would come Zwingli, Bullinger, Bucer, Calvin, Knox, Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer, with many dying at the stake but willing and standing for Christ. A revitalized and revived Church came forth and then transformations began to move in Switzerland, France, Spain, Germany, England and Ireland.

Then it skipped over to even into a new world. He had no idea in that moment but he did know in that moment that the Scripture alone is his rule of faith and practice. I cannot recant. I will not recant. Here I stand for God has helped me and He will help you. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Spend a few moments in silent prayer. Perhaps in this moment the anointing of His Spirit is bringing you to not simply stand but first to Christ in whom you stand. Christ on the cross provided a redemption for you so that you are saved by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone and the Word of God declares it and promises it. Perhaps you would like to pray with someone if God is putting this calling on you and if so please feel free to contact me at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200. Now I want to pray with all of you. Call on the Spirit to speak to your heart. Holy Spirit would You enable those who have not yet confessed Christ as Lord and Savior to do so? Holy Spirit for those who have, we are in a day increasingly where we are being delivered over to religious, state and cultural authorities. By no means do I claim any persecution of life but livelihoods are at stake and Your people need to know Your presence. Come and be with them and may You give them lives of love that cast out all fear. We will engage and we will not be enraged for there are so many voices trying to make us enraged but we will say 'no' to those who would move us in our disappointments and challenge us to be enraged, but we will be engaged with confidence in Your Word and Your Spirit, who will give us what to say and how to say it when we need to say it in that very hour. Thank You Jesus, Amen.

Power Point

TWO TEXTS

An Anointing from the Father through the Son
The Anointing's for the Anointed Ones

LIFE TAKEAWAY

PROMISE #1

Those led by the Spirit will confess Christ and will be persecuted, but need not fear and must not fear.

PROMISE #2

Those led by the promised Spirit are promised that He will give what to say and how to say it at the right time.