

What Difference Does The Holy Spirit Make

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I. Introduction.

- A. Jesus was going to send out the disciples, but then He held them back.
- B. They were to be sent with the power of the Spirit.
- C. The Spirit is a person. Its power is a thing.

II. Those the Spirit sent.

- A. We need to face the Holy Spirit - we cannot avoid Him.
- B. Those the Spirit sent were those that were chosen by Jesus.
 - 1. They were ignorant we are told, but they graduated from the greatest Bible School in the world learning under Jesus.
 - 2. They were given Jesus' authority.
 - 3. They knew Him living, dead, and living again.
 - 4. Christ spoke to the Father about them. (John 17)
 - 5. Christ outlined a program for them. (Acts)
 - a. A new era/dispensation was to be initiated.
 - b. These have to do with spiritual experience and people not calendars.
 - c. It was to be introduced by someone from above.
 - d. The Holy Spirit was sent in order to empower where we are weak.

III. What the Spirit did not do.

- A. Discipleship was before Pentecost.
- B. They were concerted before Christ.
- C. They worked miracles and had power over demons.
 - 1. Some say that if you are filled with the Spirit you will have miracles, forgetting that the disciples had that before they had the Spirit.

IV. What difference the Spirit made.

A. A sudden consciousness of God being present.

1. The disciples were 'other-worldly.'

a. A sense of God and heaven ought to be upon us.

b. Only the Holy Spirit can maintain this sense of the divine presence.

2. A sense of wonder.

a. The church today has no sense of wonderment.

b. The church was being surprised by God.

b. A sense of joy.

1. There is a sense of quiet peace, but little joy in the Gospels.

2. The old Jewish songs moan and groan but never arrive at anything.

3. The Holy Spirit gives us a melody unto the Lord. We are to be singing unto the Lord.

4. The human race is basically not happen.

5. But the joy of the Holy Spirit comes to us as a post resurrection joy that in Christ we already died and rose and that there is no death out there for the true child of God.

c. The power of words to penetrate.

1. When Peter preached at Pentecost, it penetrated the hearts of the listeners.

a. The word for pierced in John for the soldier piercing Jesus' heart is not as strong as the word used in Acts.

d. A clear sense of reality.

1. They were answering questions.

a. God never put a preacher in the pulpit to ask questions, but to answer questions.

b. A reversal from the gospels - they were asking questions before.

2. There ought to be more authority from the pulpit by moral ascendancy.

e. A sharp separation between them and the world.

1. Evangelicals have run to the world for support instead of depending upon the church.

f. Prayer.

1. A course on prayer is as ridiculous as a course on how to fall in love.

g. A passionate love for the Scriptures.

1. Jesus quoted the Scriptures in the Gospels, but the apostles quoted the Scriptures in Acts.

2. The Word of God is sweet to the Spirit filled person, because the Scriptures were written by the Spirit.

3. When you have the Spirit, God can use everything.

a. The example of the Moravians - there was a sense of the loving nearness of the Savior among them because of the Spirit.

b. The Moravians had an impact on John and Charles Wesley.

c. This spilled over to develop the Christian Missionary Alliance and the Salvation Army.

d. There was nothing radical, but the Holy Spirit came and dwelled within them in such a way that Jesus became so real they could hardly stay alive.

e. The Holy Spirit does make a difference.

Application questions.

1. How do those that the Spirit sent relate to Christ?

2. Which difference that the Holy Spirit made after Pentecost stood out the most to you? Why?

3. In what area of your life do you feel most demonstrates a need for the Holy Spirit's power? What steps can you take to make to change this? Be specific.
