

The Gift – Spirit & Mission Pt 2 - Dave Solmes - June 10, 2018

Human history reveals God's interest to draw near people, groups, families, and nations.

WHO IS THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

"The Holy Spirit is the true personal presence of God, come to dwell (fill) within us."

God's mission accomplished "as we learn to live by the energy and influence of the Holy Spirit."

This prayer and pursuit will create a narrative within a person's life that will be hard to get ahead of. It requires of someone to be content – paying full attention to the here and now - based upon a conviction that God is moving by His spirit NOW and invites you and into the mission of God. When it comes to the conversations we have been having - We don't create the activity of God we discover it, surrender to it, and participate in it.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE SPIRIT AND MISSION

#1. The Holy Spirit empowers in ways that help people live beyond their natural human timidity.

#2. The Bible names and provides language to describe the activity of God within our lives and through our lives. The new testament teaches us about gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are special abilities given to us by God for specific purposes. Gifts that have names and definition.

1 Corinthians 12:31 So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.

ACTS 2:41-47

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. **Gift of prophecy . Gift of evangelism**

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (gift of teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper) (**possibly the gift of hospitality, gift of helps, gifts of serving**) , and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. (**gift of faith, gift of miracles**) ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need (**gift of generosity**) . ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity-(**gift of generosity**) ⁴⁷ all the while

praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (evangelism).

As this early church began to form consider the composition of this early church as we have seen in Acts 2:

- 120 from the upper room – fully devoted followers – filled with the spirit
- All those who had questions and were curious but not yet committed
- Then the 3,000 people whose hearts were moved upon by Peter's message and had become Christians.

A healthy composition and healthy animation of the spirit

(verse 42). All the believers devoted themselves

ALL– it is important to study the gifts && the work and role of the Holy Spirit in the context of "all of us". ALL – equal value + equal responsibility.

Devoted themselves - devoted means to continue to do something with intense effort, despite difficulty – means staying on in a fixed direction ...

QUESTION: Can you imagine the potential if "all of us" devoted ourselves to the same good things?

THEY ALL DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO 4 THINGS:

1. Teaching - the early church they were not ahead of the story .. things were happening .. constantly .. they were all learning ... the four responses – *amazed, confused, questions, very critical*

2. Companionship (fellowship)

Our relationship with God is personal but it involves other people. Luke's chooses the word for fellowship that is based on something that they specifically shared in common. There is "another" that stands between.

3. Sharing of meals: Ate physical food together and regularly came together around the Lord's supper (communion table).

They ate with friends and welcomed the newcomer. The communion table is central because it calls us back to the main and most important thing that you and I will ever contemplate and accomplish in all of our lives. Living a gospel – centred life.

4. Prayer

When you are praying with people you are mindful of them.

The focus of the people lives in Acts 2 was changing.

1 Chronicles 4: "Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory!

Isaiah 54: "Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense!

In acts 2 they were making more room for others . Making room for the stranger. Making room for their next door neighbour. THEY HAD TO ENLARGE THEIR TENT .. REACH . INFLUENCE.

Result -

They met in homes ... with great joy and generosity, all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

Just as the early church left the upper room with their eyes, mouths, ears, hands wide open to help others .. so it would be our prayer to do the same as we conclude this series called the GIFT.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to enlarge your reach towards people?
2. When is the last time you had a meal or coffee with someone do build relationship?
3. Why is joy and generosity so important within a community?
4. Why is multiplication so necessary for church growth?