

SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: THE PRESENCE, POWER AND PROPERTIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT **UNIT III – HIS PROPERTIES**

“GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT USES THE GOSPEL AS THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE”

Sunday School Lesson No. XIII – May 24, 2015
Pastor Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Acts 2:1-12; I Corinthians 14:13-19

Required Reading: Acts 2:1-21; I Corinthians 14:1-25

Motto Text: Acts 2:4, *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

I Corinthians 14:15, *“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; Barnes Notes on the New Testament MacArthur Study Bible; Transformed Living in Tough Times (pgs. 115-116); Spiritual Warfare by Dr. David Jeremiah; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington

Introduction

Now beloved, we have heard that music is the universal language, but I believe it is the Gospel of Christ, which must be received by all people. Romans 1:16 says, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”* This lesson is taken from the New Testament history book of the Bible called The Acts of the Apostles and from I Corinthians. Its focus is on how God raised the once fear-bitten Apostles into a mighty army for evangelism, empowered by the “Third Person of the Trinity,” the Holy Spirit, and how the Spirit used the Gospel as God’s universal language!

Truly the Holy Spirit (also known as the Chaperone) is the answer to the promise Jesus Christ highlighted in John 14, 15, and 16. Above all, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide the Church *“into all truth.”* There will be no power or unity within the Church, God’s New Testament Community, without the active presence of the Holy Spirit, lifting the Gospel as God’s universal language.

This week’s lesson opens with His coming into the world to take up permanent residence in the Church of our Lord. We will discover that the Holy Spirit’s coming is in fulfillment of God’s promise from the days of the Old Testament prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32). And in the Gentile church of Corinth we will discover that the Holy Spirit uses the message of the Gospel as God’s universal language for all. **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **A Special Phenomenon.** Acts 2:1-4
- **A Surprised People.** Acts 2:5-7, 12
- **A Speech Problem.** I Corinthians 14:13-19

LESSON OUTLINE

God’s Holy Spirit Uses the Gospel as God’s Universal Language

I. A Special Phenomenon. Acts 2:1-4

After the ascension of Jesus Christ, the early apostles were advised by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem until the One who was promised would come. (Read Acts 1:1-8). That One who would come was God’s Holy Spirit (the Third Personality of the Godhead). This great appearance of the Holy Spirit was a Special Phenomenon! His appearance set forth four things to consider, according to Dr. David Jeremiah: “Setting; Sound; Sight; Speech”.

A. “The setting.” vs. 1

He appeared on the Jewish Feast Day of Pentecost. This was one of the major feast days of Israel according to Leviticus 23:5-21. It came 50 days after the Feast of Passover and celebrated the completed grain harvest. In it, the Jews presented two leaven loaves of bread in thanksgiving for the harvest of the Lord. (Read Numbers 28:26). According to later Jewish tradition, this feast also celebrates the receiving of the Law by Moses at Mt. Sinai.

The text in Acts 2:1 declares when it had **“fully come”**, perhaps declaring not only that the day of celebration had arrived, but that this was the fulfilling of the Feast of Pentecost as it relates to God’s eternal program. Note the obedience of the Apostles and early followers of Christ: They were on **“one accord”** and **“in one place,”** a definite equation for God’s power and unity!

B. “The sound.” vs. 2

Almost without warning, the Holy Spirit descends upon the faithful crowd which was waiting and anticipating His arrival as the promise of the Lord. He appears with a great sound, as a great rushing of the wind. And the sound caught the attention of a very crowded city, so much that it caused the celebrants of Pentecost to wonder what had just happened in their midst.

C. “The sight.” vs. 3

God, having the attention of the worshipping multitude in Jerusalem from the sound, now allows the Upper Room crowd to come down into the streets and go into the outer courts of the Temple with a visual manifestation of His presence upon them, **“...Cloven tongues of fire over their heads...”** This visible sign surely drew the attention of the crowd and caused them to pay attention to the forthcoming message from Peter and the apostles. Paul informs us in I Corinthians 1:22 that **“the Jew seeketh a sign”** and this was a great sign to answer their unbelief and hear God’s message.

D. “The speech.” vs. 4

This was God’s **special phenomenon** that would demonstrate His powerful hand upon the early Church and gain the full attention of the Pentecost pilgrims. The ability for those called “ignorant men” to be able to speak through the power of the Holy Spirit the Good News of Jesus Christ to people of at least 15 different nations and numerous dialects. What a miracle of the Holy Spirit’s power and ability to unify God’s people! I am so impressed that God is able to teach people languages and dialects they had never studied in order to declare the Good News of the Gospel! It has been said that music is the universal language, but beloved, according to Acts 2:4, the Gospel is the universal language. There is no good news without it!

II. A Surprised People. Acts 2:5-7, 12

Now Luke, the author of Acts, declares to us the great surprise of the Pilgrims of Pentecost. Note that, according to vs. 5, they represented religious, devoted Jews from the then known world! Luke uses words like, **“confounded”**, vs. 6; **“amazed”** and **“marvelled”**, vs. 7; **“amazed”**, and **“what does this mean?”** vs. 12 to describe how surprised they were to hear of Galilee, a section of Palestine not known for its scholarship, to be able to speak the Good News of the Gospel in so many different languages and dialects. Beloved, without question, God used the Holy Spirit in these apostles, to present the teachings of Christ to those who had come from all the surrounding nations, East, West, North and South. The Holy Spirit’s ability in the apostles declared the Gospel with power and purpose, but according to verse 13, all were not impressed but sought the opportunity to ridicule the mighty works of God! The surprised people would hear the purpose for this Day of Pentecost in the sermon of Peter!

III. A Speech Problem. I Corinthians 14:13-19

Beloved, with not much space to write, I choose to quote that which I agree with in short order. Union Gospel Press notes by Jane E. Campbell says:

A. “Using gifts to edify (I Cor. 14:13-15).

What if every church leader were as conscientious about teaching and growing in the church as the Apostle Paul? He was a true champion for the advancement of the church. He stressed the importance of using spiritual gifts to edify the church, even if the one who possessed the gift received no recognition. We must never forget that ministry is not about us; it is all about lifting up Christ and leading the unsaved to Him.”

B. “Minister to edify (I Cor. 14:16-19).

If the songs and prayers of the worship leaders are designed to minister only to them, it is of little value to the congregation. What benefit is it to the church body if the pastors and teachers are more concerned about being eloquent than about being understood?”

CLOSING

It is our job to use every opportunity to inform in love and clearly the Good News of God’s universal language called the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **“For it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone who believes”** (John 3:16-17; Romans 1:16; 5:8).

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768
Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: bible32@bellsouth.net
Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.
TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead: May 31, 2015 I Corinthians 13



You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.