

July 26, 2020 Sunday Evening Message

Scripture: Acts 1:1-14

Singing: 225:1-3 ó 86:1-3 ó 358:1-4 ó 221:1-3

**Question:** *Is the handmaid of the Lord lacking love among us?*

- A. The handmaid of the Lord is the believer's prayer meeting
1. Consider keywords in Acts 1:4, 5, 8, 14
  2. Consider absolute necessity for Holy Spirit
  3. Consider wide open promise of Luke 1:18
    - a. Do we pray with an *expectant mindset*?
  4. Consider the right motives to prayer

The Baptism with the Holy Ghost I. A promised gift for preachers II. A needed gift for saints III. A blessed gift for unsaved
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**I. The Baptism with the Holy Ghost: a promised gift for preachers**

- A. What did Jesus promise His disciples in *this baptism*? (Acts 1:8)
- B. What is this *baptism with the Holy Ghost*?
1. It is a *Divine Gift* (vs. 5; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)
    - a. though promised, they were to *pray for it*: Acts 1:14; Luke 1:1-13
  2. It is best defined by the *fruits* (vs. 8): *it would give them power*
    - a. **power of Spirit** is referred to as the ***unction of Spirit*** (Acts 4:31)
      - b. fruit upon hearers reveal this power: 1 Thess. 1:5-6; John 5:25
  3. This power or unction is mostly felt by *the hearers*: Acts 4:30, 33
    - a. though preachers we experienced *boldness and conviction*
    - b. the hearers experienced the *hand of Jesus to heal*

**II. A sorely needed gift for the Church**

- A. Christian Churches aren't *turning world upside down*' as in Acts
- B. Pentecost is the *prototype* of each *revival seen through history of church*
1. What is a *revival in Christianity*?
    - a. exchange of *the form of godliness for living power and witness*

2. When did we witness such *revivals* lately?
  - a. where is the *unusual degree of assurance of 1 Peter 1:8*?
  - b. where are the repeats of *previous revivals, including in NZ*?
  - c. where is the fulfilment of Zechariah 8:20-23?

### **III. A blessed gift for unsaved!**

A. Why is this baptism with the Spirit a blessing for the *unsaved*?

1. Because when the cup is filled it will overflow
  - a. Apostles were not the only preachers God used
  - b. God used *office of all believers* (Acts 8:2-4)

B. When God revives the *ministry of the Word*, great things will happen!

1. It will *bring many sinners to genuine salvation*
2. It will outwardly benefit *community – nation* we live in (Acts 5:11)

### **Take-Along Questions ...**

A. Will we be a *Church on her knees*?

B. Do we realize that none is greater than his/her private prayer life?

### **Questions or thoughts to discuss with your families**

1. Are we (too) content with small numbers?
2. Is this a right sentiment, "The more faithful to the Word, the smaller a church inevitably remains"?
3. Consider James 4:2b-3 and reflect on your own/family prayer life.
  - a. Do we lack *because we ask not*?
  - b. Do we *ask but ask amiss and therefore receive not*?
  - c. What would be wrong/right motives to ask for larger numbers of converts?
4. Someone said, "To pray is to bow your head, open your Scripture and pray the truths and promises God has recorded." What can we learn from this truth?
5. Spurgeon wrote, "We shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a high place in the esteem of Christians." Assuming he was right, trace in Scripture the connection between revival and prayer?