

Let's Go!

Sunday, May 27, 2018
10:30 AM

I want to expand on what we talked about last week for Pentecost Sunday. As you may recall I spoke briefly on two verses from 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

Based on Paul's questions to the Corinthians, we asked and answered 3 questions of our own

1. Do you know **WHAT** you are?
2. Do you know **WHO** lives there?
3. Do you know **WHY** He's There?
 - He wants to fill you and produce His fruit in you
 - He wants to comfort you
 - He wants to lead you and guide you
 - He wants to control you
 - He wants to convict you and keep you from sin
 - He wants to teach you
 - He wants to encourage you
 - He wants to reveal spiritual things to you
 - He wants to empower you
 - He wants to help you pray
 - He wants to set you on fire

It's this 3rd question that I want to tie into today

As we have already suggested, there is a reason why the Holy Spirit is there. Even beyond the particular reasons why He fills us there is a greater purpose that he longs to fulfill. A purpose that isn't just about ourselves but about God's purpose for the world.

It's a purpose that was made clear prior to the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost but one which required the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill

How sad it would be if we acknowledged the significance of Pentecost, if we hungered for The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, if we experienced the fullness of His presence in our lives but never moved forward in His purpose

Matthew 28:16-20 New International Version (NIV)

The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 1:8-11 New International Version (NIV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

In the first passage we have the clarity of the directive - Go -

The definition of the tasks we are to perform

And the promise of His presence in this matter

The second passage reminds us of the imperative and urgent nature of Jesus command

So in this week following our remembrance of the day of Pentecost and our acknowledgement of His presence in our lives are we just going to stand around looking into the heavens or are we move out and do something with this that we have been given.

1. Let's Go... become the people God wants us to be

If you want to know what kind of person God wants you to be, then a great place to start would be to take a few minutes each day and focus on some aspect of Jesus' nature as described in the Bible. That's who He wants you to become.

Maybe it's His love of the Word or His ability to teach it with authority

Maybe it's His compassion for those in need

Maybe it's His devotion to prayer and communion with The Father

Maybe it's His holiness, righteousness and victory over sin

Maybe it's His incomparable forgiveness for even His Enemies

Maybe it's His Spiritual Power and Authority

Colossians 3:1-17 New International Version (NIV)

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11** Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs

from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*This is something we should be doing everyday

2. Let's Go... spread the good news of the Gospel

Mark 16:15 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

15 Then he told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world.

*This is something the Gideons do so well

Romans 10:13-15 New International Version (NIV)

13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15** And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

1 Thessalonians 1:4-7 New International Version (NIV)

4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, **5** because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. **6** You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. **7** And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

Do you see it? Right there is the "formula" for communicating Jesus to others—the answer is "all of the above." We communicate the gospel:

***Not simply with words.** That means there are words to speak. Some of my friends love to share this (supposed) Francis of Assisi quote: "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words." But, of course, words are necessary. Jesus used words.*

***Also with power.** This nuance will make my Pentecostal and Charismatic friends happy. Yes, we need power. The Kingdom of God isn't just about talk—it's about power.*

With the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. God's Spirit brings a beautiful, tender, but deep sense of repentance to our hearts.

Embedded in our daily life. "You know how we lived among you for your sake." Boom. There it is. Our final call is to live a life that is worthy of the calling we have received. Without a life well-lived, our message rings hollow.

There is no dichotomy in how the gospel is offered—it's all of the above. Paul, Silas, and Timothy model it. They preach it with words and power. And the Holy Spirit convicts of sin.

Jesus, as well, lives with us in integrity and in the power of the Spirit. He works miracles (power) and communicates with words. He focuses on a few, and preaches to crowds of several thousand. He meets physical needs as well as spiritual needs. Jesus is our model in all things, and his answer is "all of the above." From <http://carlmedearis.com/2015/09/how-do-we-really-spread-the-good-news/>

3. Let's Go... Make disciples of Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20 New International Version (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*This is something we must not neglect

4. Let's Go... show compassion to those in need

Matthew 15:32 New International Version (NIV)

32 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”

Jesus taught us that it is important to consider people's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs.

*This is something Convoy of Hope commits themselves to

5. Let's Go... plunder the enemies camp and set the captives free

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus told Peter that he would build his church and that the very gates of hell would not prevail against it. There is a need for us to go into the very worst parts of humanity and set the prisoners free.

*This is something so many of our Missionaries are doing everyday

On this Memorial Day weekend we remember those who have chosen throughout the years to not remain motionless in the fight for what is right, going and giving their lives to protect our freedoms.

How much more should we, in like manner, not be satisfied with doing nothing but rise up and say "Let's Go!"