



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER”

Ps. Mike Cantrell– April 19, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- *Can you recall one promise your parents made to you when you were growing up? What made that promise particularly special?*
- *If you could have a super power, what would it be?*
- *What’s the most challenging endeavor you have ever undertaken? Were you able to accomplish your goal?*

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org/media/>

“You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:48-49

“To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for that the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:3-5, 8)

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days. During that time, he reaffirmed to his disciples his plan to establish his Kingdom, and sent them to testify everywhere and to everyone that Jesus is alive and therefore he is indeed the Son of God. But before Jesus deployed his disciples, he commanded them to wait until they had received the Promise from the Father, which now is Jesus’s promise as well.

THE PROMISE:

It is significant that this coming, filling, and empowering of the Holy Spirit is called “the Promise of the Father.” A “Promise of the Father” could only be good...THUS ERRADICATING FEAR! Fear due to misconceptions about the baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the main hindrances to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Father promised the Spirit as a gift to his children. In calling the Holy Spirit the promise of the Father –you do not have to be afraid of the Holy Spirit. If it’s the Father’s promise, it’s reliable. The Father would never promise something that he couldn’t fulfill. It shows that the Promise belongs to all His children, since it comes from God as our Father. If it’s a promise, then like all of God’s promises, it must be received by faith.

THE POWER:

*The promise was the **necessary power**. The power was necessary because the task at hand was great. Humanly speaking, the mission was an impossible one. The disciples, even though they had seen Jesus die and rise from the dead, would not have been able to stand for that truth and withstand persecution in their own strength. The empowerment by the Spirit was, and is, so crucial for the fulfillment of God's mission. It takes God to do God's work. That's why Jesus told his disciples to wait until they had received power from on high.*

Waiting wasn't Peter's specialty, but he waited. The experience he had with the resurrected Christ gave him the faith to wait for a promise. He didn't exactly know how it would come to pass. Jesus had taught his disciples extensively about the person of the Holy Spirit. He taught them that the Holy Spirit was a Comforter, Teacher, and Mediator - just like Himself. Jesus intentionally didn't spend much time talking about the manifestations of the Spirit. He did not want them distracted by these expressions of the Spirit; thus, possibly undermining the Divine third person of the Trinity, who was the one to come and give them power to be witnesses of Christ. So, with very little understanding on the how, the disciples had to wait. They didn't quite understand what was going to happen, but they were expecting Jesus - who had risen from the dead - would do what he said he would do. Spiritual Hunger is the pre-requisite (not absolute understanding). In the same way, if we have experienced the transforming power of the risen Christ in our life, we can also believe that the power to be His witnesses is available for us.

THE PURPOSE:

The natural result of receiving this promised power would be that they would become witnesses of Jesus all over the earth. In the context of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, being a witness really wasn't a command; it was a statement of fact. When the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . . you shall be witnesses of Me. The words "shall be" are in the indicative, not the imperative. Jesus didn't recommend that they become witnesses; He said they would be witnesses.

If we want to be witnesses, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT. The Holy Spirit is present in the sinner working to bring conviction. "Nobody calls Jesus Lord, unless it's through the Spirit." The Holy Spirit works through the messenger/witness with boldness. Peter preaches his first sermon - 3,000 people get saved. The reason they believed was that the same person that blew the strong wind and fire ... was blowing on the hearts of those men and women, convicting them of sin and leading them to Jesus.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- *Have you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Is there anything hindering you from pursuing the promise from the Father?*
- *What do you plan to do to learn more about the Holy Spirit; i.e., complete Chapter 4 of the Purple Book; attend the Holy Spirit class the first Wednesday of next month?*
- *How can you use the power the Holy Spirit has given you during the coming week?*

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- *Pray that God will break fear, apathy and shame to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.*
- *Pray to be filled with the power of the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.*
- *Pray that the Holy Spirit will give you more passion and power to fulfill the Great Commission.*