

"THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PREACHING"

John 16:13-14

Legend has it A certain guide in the deserts of Arabia never lost his way. He carried a homing pigeon with a fine cord attached to his leg. If he doubted which path to take or if he was caught in a sand storm, he would release the bird. The pigeon would fly in the direction of home. The guide was always able to return safely. Preaching: Must value the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN REVELATION

A. Preaching is not merely information – it is supernatural

1. It is supernatural in it's origin

a. **I have had a word/phrase pop into my mind I was not reading or studying**

1. *That was exactly what someone needed – at that moment*

b. **In my Bible reading – something comes to mind that I am inspired on**

1. *That was exactly what someone needed – at that moment*

c. **I have been preaching series – working through a topic or a book**

1. *That was exactly what someone needed – at that moment*

2. The reason why that can happen – the Holy Spirit is the one who wrote God's word

a. *2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,*

b. *2 Peter 1:21 prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

B. A major part of revelation in preaching is the Holy Spirit

1. *John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.*

a. One of the primary purposes of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into all truth:

1. That definitely includes preaching

2. *John 14:26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

a. Teach you everything: *The Holy Spirit can help us to understand scripture*

b. Remind you of everything: Things that are already in there

C. The practical outflow of the Holy Spirit in revelation

1. **Our main job is to read God's word:** All preaching flows out of this

a. Bring to remembrance: What we put inside – will come out

1. Conversely: If we are not reading God's word – God has nothing to bring to remembrance

b. Tell me a preacher you admire – I guarantee they love God's word/they read God's word

1. *Many of my preacher friends: I was reading my Bible this morning...*

2. **Ask the Holy Spirit for revelation:**

a. What do you want me to say? *Particular topics at particular times*

b. Give me something to say: *One of my major prayers is that God would speak to me in revelation*

c. Give me understanding: *I have had passages I am wrestling with – I don't understand*

1. *I pray for light/revelation: God speaks to me*

3. **Trust the Holy Spirit's guidance:**

a. Inspiration means "God-breathed"; You have to trust that God can and will speak to you

1. *Waken your ear...Deep calls unto deep... 2. Samuel: The Lord called him, saying Samuel...not the full message!*

b. Sometimes you are drawn to a verse or passage/it pops into your mind; No revelation yet

1. *I have learned that this is God trying to help me: When I dig where He's inspiring - I strike revelation*

2. *Or I discover this was exactly what was needed for someone*

c. On rare occasions – God may change what you are going to preach/say

1. The actual message 2. Or an emphasis that is not in the sermon, or it is only minor (change)

a. *That doesn't take the place of work (I just depend on the Holy Spirit, brother)*

II. PREACHING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The Holy Spirit needs to be emphasized in our preaching

1. **Always preach about the available power to do God's will**

a. Not merely: *You're messed up - or try harder*

b. **John 14:15-17** "If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."

c. This gives the balance of hope to conviction: *God will enable you to do what He wants you to do!*

B. You need to preach about the Holy Spirit

1. Giving a Biblical foundation of the Holy Spirit

a. To combat error: False doctrines that confuse/hinder people

b. To show our need of supernatural power beyond ourselves

2. Creating an appetite in our people for the power of The Holy Spirit

a. **Luke 24:49** *I will send you what my Father has promised, but you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven."*

1. If you give the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit – it creates hunger for His power

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN IMPACT

A. Ultimately we need a dimension beyond ourselves in preaching

1. We have all tried to argue people into stopping sin/doing right

a. And been frustrated: *What's wrong with them? (Bad people) What's wrong with me? (Bad Pastor)*

2. But God promises a supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit: **Beyond our ability**

a. **1 Tim 4:14** *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

1. Gift = Charisma: Supernatural endowment/enabling

b. But the context is preaching! *That supernatural enabling will work out in preaching*

B. We see this in the Bible

1. **Acts 2:36-37** "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

2. **Acts 6:10** *But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.*

a. Saul was there – his message impacted him: *Later on he was saved/transformed*

3. This is a wonderful feeling – God at work in your preaching

a. *A few weeks ago a lady came for the first time and got saved. She asked the one who brought her afterwards, "Did you tell him about me? That was exactly my life."*

b. *People inspired to give/surrendering to the call/going to pioneer/go overseas...I heard you preach!*