

Five Ways the Spirit Compels Us to Do Missions

Sermon in a Sentence: The Spirit compels us to fulfill the Great Commission.

Sermon Purpose: That believers will be filled with the Spirit and commit themselves to fulfilling Christ's mission to preach the gospel to all people.

Text: Acts 20:22-24 (NIV)

Introduction

1. In this text Paul tells the Ephesian elders that the Spirit was compelling Him to finish the work that Christ had given him.
 - a. That work was to "testify to the gospel of God's grace" (v.24).
 - b. He had received that assignment from Christ when was saved and filled with the Spirit (Acts 9:15-16; 26:14-19).
 - c. He was still committed to that vision (Acts 26:19).
2. We too have been given a work to do.
 - a. Jesus has command us, "'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mk.16:15-16).
 - b. To do this we must be filled with, and remain full of, the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
 - c. He will compel us to finish the work.
3. This message: Five ways the Spirit compels us to do missions:

I. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO GO.

- A. The Spirit puts within our hearts the zeal to go and preach the gospel to the lost.
 1. He compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness (Mk 1:12) and then into Galilee (Lk 4:14).
 2. He compelled Peter to go preach to the household of Cornelius: "The Spirit told me to go..." (Acts 11:12).
 3. He compelled Barnabas and Saul to commence their missionary work (Acts 13:2).
 4. He compels us to go to the ends of the earth and proclaim Christ (Acts 1:8).
- B. We must obey the compulsion of the Spirit.

II. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO STAY.

- A. Once we are where God wants us to be, the Spirit will compel us and strengthens us to stay and finish the work.

1. In our text, the Spirit compelled Paul to finish the work Christ had given him (Acts 20:24).
 3. On another occasion, while in Corinth, Paul was tempted to give up the fight, but the Holy Spirit gave him a vision of Christ, who encouraged him to fight on (Acts 18:9-11).
- B. Even Jesus Himself was tempted not to finish His work of dying on the cross (Lk.22:42), but the Spirit strengthened Him to finish His work (Hb.9:14).
- C. When we are tempted give up the work, the Spirit will help us to stay.
1. This is why it is so important that we be filled with, and remain full of, the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18).
 2. We must pray daily in the Spirit (Ro.8:26-27).
 3. And as we pray in the Spirit, we are strengthened: "The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself" (1Co 14:4).

III. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO PROCLAIM.

- A. Our primary task as Christ's followers is to proclaim His Name to the nations.
1. Jesus has command us, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel" (Mk 16:15).
 2. He has also sent the Spirit to empower us and compel us to preach the gospel (Acts 1:8).
 3. This is why it is so important that we remain full of the Spirit.
- B. The Spirit compelled Peter and the other disciples to keep preaching in the face of danger and threats:
1. Acts 4:17-20: Peter, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."
 2. If we will remain full of the Spirit, and committed to Christ's mission, the Spirit will compel and empower us to do what we must.

IV. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO PRAY.

- A. Prayer is an essential element in advancing the kingdom of God.
1. Someone once said, "The army of God marches on its knees."
 2. The Spirit will compel us to pray.
- B. Paul tells us how the Spirit helps us to pray (Ro.8:26-27):
1. He will help us know what to pray for (v.26a).

2. He will pray through us “with groans that words cannot express” (v.26b).
 3. He will help us to pray according to the will of God (v.27).
- C. If we are going to have the Spirit’s help we must stay full of the Spirit.

V. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO GIVE

- A. Missions requires money.
1. Many “good intentions” in missions fail for lack of finances.
 2. God expects His people to finance His mission.
 3. The Spirit will compel us to give.
- B. After Pentecost the believers became generous.
1. God poured out His Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
 2. The Spirit inspired the people to become generous givers (Acts 2:44-47).
- C. The Spirit will compel us to give to missions today.

Conclusion and Altar Call

1. Come to commit yourself to fulfilling God’s mission.
2. Come and be filled with the Spirit.
3. To be filled with the Spirit, do this:
 - a. Ask in faith (Lk 11:9-13).
 - b. Receive by faith (Mk 11:24).
 - c. Speak in faith (Ac 2:4).