

Compelled by the Spirit to Proclaim the Gospel

Sermon in a Sentence: We must be compelled by Christ's love and God's Spirit to advance His kingdom in the earth.

Sermon Purpose: That people will commit themselves to advancing God's kingdom and then be empowered by His Spirit.

Text: Acts 20:17-25

Introduction:

1. In our text Paul declared that he was "compelled by the Spirit" to complete the task of "testifying to the gospel of God's grace."
2. Throughout his life he had allowed the Spirit to work powerfully in him, enabling him to effectively proclaim the gospel to all (Rom 15:18-19).
3. Our text reveals three ways we, like Paul, must allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives compelling us to proclaim the gospel:

I. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL BY IMPARTING TO US THE LOVE OF CHRIST (Read vv. 19-20)

- A. Because of the love of Christ he had experienced, Paul was moved to proclaim the gospel (1Tim 1:15-16).
 1. The cross convinced him of Christ's love (Rom 5:8).
 2. He never forgot how Christ had changed his life (Ac 26:19).
 3. The Holy Spirit amplified God's love in his heart (Rom 5:5).
 4. He thus proclaimed the gospel with gratitude and with a deep love for Christ and people (Ac 20:19-20)
 5. We must do the same today.
- B. Because of the love of Christ Paul persevered even through great trials (Acts 20:19).
 1. The love of Christ compelled him (2Cor 5:14)
 2. The love of Christ sustained him .
 3. Because of this, he never wavered in the face of difficulties.
 4. We, like Paul, must remain full of the Holy Spirit and conscious of the love Christ (Rom 5:5).

II. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL BY MOTIVATING US TO FULFIL GOD'S MISSION (Read vv. 24-25)

- A. God's mission is to save the nations and establish Christ's eternal kingdom in the earth.

1. This is the hope of the world (Rev. 21:3-5).
 2. This is why the gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed to all nations (Mt 24:14).
- B. The Spirit powerfully motivated Paul to fulfil God's mission.
1. Jesus gave Paul the task as testifying to the gospel (v. 24).
 2. His main goal was to see God's kingdom established (v. 25).
 3. He was even willing to give his life (Acts 20:24)
 - a. Just as Jesus had given His life.
 - b. God's kingdom is worth giving everything, even our lives.
 4. Like Paul, we must allow the Spirit to work in our lives until we fully commit ourselves to proclaim the gospel (Mt 13:44-45, Mk 8:34-35).
 5. Then, we must faithfully proclaim the gospel and remain focused on the goal (Mt. 6:33).

III. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL BY FILLING US WITH HIS PRESENCE AND POWER (Read v. 22; Acts 1:8)

- A Paul was compelled by the Spirit because he was full of the Spirit.
1. He received the Spirit soon after his conversion (Ac 9:17).
 2. He immediately began to proclaim the gospel (v, 20).
 3. Throughout his ministry he remained full of the Spirit and committed to preaching Christ (Ro 15:17-20).
 4. He made it his priority to encourage others to do the same.
 5. For instance, the 12 Ephesian disciples (Ac 19:1-6).
- B. Like Paul, we must be empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to proclaim the gospel of Christ (Ac 1:8)
1. Jesus commanded His apostles not to begin the work until they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:4-5)
 2. Today each us of can receive the Holy Spirit and be empowered and motivated to proclaim the gospel.

Conclusion

1. If you are grateful for what Christ has done in your life, come and commit yourself to the mission of advancing His kingdom.
2. If you want to be used powerfully by Christ to advance His kingdom, come and be filled with the Spirit.