

Compelled by the Spirit

Sermon in a Sentence: The Spirit works in our lives to enable us to complete the work that Christ has given us.

Sermon Purpose: To call on believes to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to commit themselves to completing their God-given mission in life.

Text: Act 20:17-24

Introduction

1. In our text story, Paul is at the end of his third missionary journey.
 - a. He had performed His ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. He had been empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17-18).
 - c. Throughout his ministry, the Spirit had worked in in through him (Example: 1Co 2:1-5).
2. Now, he testifies how the Holy Spirit was still at work in his life.
3. We can learn three lessons about how the Holy Spirit works in our lives to enable us to fulfill our God-given ministries:

I. THE SPIRIT ENABLES US TO LIVE LIVES THAT ARE A TESTIMONY TO THE GOSPEL (Read vv.18-19).

- A. Christ has called us to commit ourselves to live as His witnesses in the world (Lk 24:46; Acts 1:8; 2:32).
 1. As Christ's disciples, witness is our primary duty.
- B. A large part of our witness includes the way we live our lives in the midst of a corrupt world (Php 2:15).
 1. In our text, Paul reminded the Ephesian elders of how he had lived among them. (Read: Acts 20:17-19.)
 2. We are not only to witness *for* Christ, we are to "*be witnesses unto*" Him (Acts 1:8 KJV), that is, our lives are to be a witness.
- C. We can only live such lives through the enablement of the Holy Spirit (Ro 8:13; Ga 5:16).

II. THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO IMPARTIALLY DECLARE THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE (Read vv.20-21).

- A. Our witness to the world must include an impartial declaration of the gospel to all people.
 - 1. Paul witnessed both “publicly and from house to house” (v.20).
 - 2. He declared the gospel to “both Jews and Greeks” (v.21).
 - 3. We must be equally committed to reaching all people.
 - 4. This includes the people we have historically shunned—even those tribes that we have despised.
- B. The Holy Spirit will give us the passion, power, and boldness we need to proclaim the gospel (Lk 4:18-19).
- C. We receive this power when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 4:31, 33).

III. THE SPIRIT COMPELS US TO COMPLETE OUR GOD-GIVEN MISSION IN SPITE OF ANY DANGER OR HARDSHIP (Read vv.22-24).

- A. The Spirit compelled Paul to complete His mission (v.22).
 - 1. Paul’s God-given mission was to “open the eyes [of the Gentiles] so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God” (Acts 26:18)
 - 2. It included his enduring trials and persecution (Acts 9:16).
 - 3. The Spirit constantly drove him to complete that mission.
- B. The Spirit now compels us to complete our God-given mission.
 - 1. Like Paul, we too have been given a mission.
 - a. Both individually and as a church.
 - 2. We, too, will face hardships.
 - 3. We must remain full of the Spirit to complete that mission.

Conclusion and Altar Call

- 1. Come and commit yourself to fulfilling God’s mission.
- 2. Come and be empowered by the Holy Spirit

—Denzil R Miller

- 17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.
- 18 When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.
- 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.
- 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.
- 21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.
- 22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.
- 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.
- 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.