

GOD'S TWO GREAT PROMISES

Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; John 14:16-17; 26-27

Introduction: Of all the promises made in the Bible, there are two that stand out above all the others. One is that a Savior was coming and the other was that the Holy Spirit was to be poured out. (*Joel 2:28-29; John 14:16*). First the Savior came and we are very familiar with the Christmas story and the life of God's Son, Jesus as He fulfilled His purpose for coming, ending His earthly life on a cross for the sins of all mankind, and then in victory rising from the tomb, finally ascending back into heaven where He came from. The other promise made was that God's Holy Spirit would be poured out upon those who believed in God's Son. For what purpose did God promise that the Holy Spirit would be poured out?

I. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS/IS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Jesus called the 3rd person of the Trinity, a "comforter," (paraclete), an encourager.
2. Jesus promised His disciples during the Lord's Supper that when He left, He would not leave them "comfortless" (orphans). *John 16:6-7* He would send them someone to "comfort" them.
3. The Holy Spirit was their strength, consolation and for us today, the Holy Spirit is our assurance for victory.
4. Anytime God's people (2 or three) gather together, the Holy Spirit is present and whatever mission a believer is on for the Lord, the Holy Spirit is there to guide and sustain.
 - Often a believer senses God's presence when he/she is doing God's work, that is the presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. The Holy Spirit is "Jesus" with in place of Jesus' bodily presence.

II. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS/IS FOR POWER

1. *2 Corinthians 3:8-9; 3:16-18*
2. The Old Testament Laws were strict, very thorough and difficult to keep as enforced by the religious leaders.
 - The Holy Spirit gives life to God's laws and take the Holy Spirit away from God's Word, you have only "words."
 - Separate a soul from a body and all you have is a corpse.
3. Without the Holy Spirit there is no conviction, no regeneration, no sanctification, no cleansing, no acceptable works, all sermons and prayers just fall to the ground, songs are hollow.
 - The Holy Spirit brings LIFE and power to God's Word and Worship.

III. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR TRUTH

1. God is the ONLY source of truth.
2. All of us know how limited people really are, even the smartest, the wisest and people do indeed see dimly.
3. There are false religions, cults, philosophies, science and misdirection, all by people.

4. What is truth? Who speaks the truth? Where can truth be found?
 - *1 Kings 18:26*
 - *1 Corinthians 10:20*
 - *2 Corinthians 4:4*
 - *Matthew 24:24*
 - *2 Peter 2:1-2*
 - *1 John 4:1-3*
 - *2 Timothy 3:1-5*
5. How does one know the truth? Jesus Christ promised the Spirit of Truth (*John 16:13*)
 - *John 7:17* - God will not lead us astray.

IV. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR SALVATION

1. The Holy Spirit convicts, leads a person to Jesus, regenerates, sanctifies, seals, insures and guarantees heaven for that believer.
2. To deny the Holy Spirit brings eternal exclusion from Heaven.
3. To blaspheme the Holy Spirit incurs eternal death and is unforgivable.
4. *Mark 3:28-29; Matthew 12:31-32; Hebrews 10:26-29; 1 John 5:16*
5. If a person refuses the call of the Holy Spirit, then there is no other way to be saved, there is no other Son of God, there is no other Holy Spirit.
6. A warning: Listen to the Holy Spirit and be saved. Refuse to listen and die an eternal death.

CONCLUSION:

1. Thankfully God is not like us in making and then keeping promises. What God promises, God does.
2. God promised a Savior and He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ who became Savior for whosoever will believe in Him.
3. God promised to send the Holy Spirit and He did. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and had been here ever since, bringing people to salvation in Jesus, indwelling them, empowering them, equipping them for using their lives in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ and will when the believer's life is ended, take him/her to his/her eternal home in heaven.
4. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you will never be alone. The Holy Spirit lives within you and will never leave you.