



CHRIST
REFORMED BAPTIST
CHURCH

Biblical Preaching & Reverent Worship
www.CRBC.faith • 2630 Woodward Ave. – New Castle, IN

The Early and Latter Gifts (part 2)

Cessationism – A Vibrant Spiritual Life.

‘Study to show thyself approved unto God...’ – 2 Timothy 2:15
The importance of reading and learning God’s word is a vital part of both growing and also experiencing the blessing of belonging to God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This truth is one of the purposes why we wish to offer you these sermon notes which are to be used while listening to the sermon.

For your added benefit, there is also included six daily bible readings that supplement the theme of each sermon. Take time to gather your loved ones to read and discuss the texts.

If you have any further questions relating to the sermon, sermon notes or would like to learn more about the ministry of Christ Reformed Baptist Church, please do not hesitate to contact
Pastor Doug Barger
email: pastor@crbc.faith or phone: #317-542-3159

INTRODUCTION

- Continuationists (most, not all) attempt to characterize us (Cessationists) as being too ‘high-bound’ to our traditions and as brethren being much learned in doctrine but lack life and newness of the Spirit.
- We very much believe that the Holy Spirit still gives to His people great and wonderful gifts that are vital to the ministry of the church and the spiritual wellbeing of the individual Christian.
- We need to be certain that we are seeking the true, correct and Biblical experience of the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit which we have been promised.
- I will endeavor to walk through several aspects of the regular or you can say ‘ordinary’ operations (workings) of the Holy Spirit that are wonderful and powerful gifts to not only the early church but have and will continue until the end of this age.

#1 - THE ADOVOCATE OF CHRIST

Jhn 14:26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jhn 15:26 ¶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Jhn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

- Through the years interesting words have been employed in an attempt to help us become better acquainted in our understanding of this person within the Triune God-Head.

1 – Anonymity of the Spirit (The fact of remaining or being anonymous, He doesn’t seek to project himself or draw attention to Himself)

2 – The Modesty of the Spirit (Reserved, not flashy)

3 – The Shyness of the Spirit (Somewhat helpful, but not accurate in the strictest sense due to its connection with human emotions)

4 – The Advocate ~ translated: ‘Comforter’ (This is the most Biblical used termed and is well keeping with Jhn 14:26 & 15:26 in the sense that the Spirit ‘though co-equal with Christ’ works on Christ’s behalf as His advocate and so not to draw any undue attention to Himself but rather to advocate or testify of Jesus Christ).

- ...yet at the same time He is to be acknowledged, adored...He is to be totally relied upon and valued in all things...The Holy Spirit is to be called upon and called for

#2 - OUR BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

1Cr 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

- many Continuationists propose and teach that we are to seek after a ‘second blessing’ or a ‘second baptism of the Spirit’ in addition to our initial conversion.
- It is the only time in Paul’s epistles where the term ‘baptism’ is ever used in connection with the Holy Spirit and demonstrates that the baptism of the Spirit occurs at our conversion.

~ This link between conversion and our receiving of the Holy Spirit is emphasized again in another epistle of Paul’s

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

- So then, we can safely conclude that every true believer without exception receives the abundant blessing of the Spirit at the time of his/her conversion.
- Additional verses demonstrating the reality of the believer possessing the Spirit of God upon conversion and therefore no further ‘second

blessing' or 'second spiritual baptism' is required or at least not demanded in Scripture. Acts 2:38; Rom.5:1-5; Rom.8:9,15; 1 Cor.6:11,19-20; Gal. 3:2,13-14; Eph.1:3; Eph.1:13-14, Eph.4:30; 1 Thess. 1:5-6; 1 John 4:12-13

- 1689 Baptist Confession "All those that are justified...receive the Spirit of adoption...are enabled to cry 'Abba Father', are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by Him, as by a Father; yet never cast off; but sealed to the day of redemption..." (Chp.12)
- It is essential that we realize that the only baptism of the Spirit mentioned in the Bible is the gracious act of the Spirit when He comes to dwell within the believer at the time of our conversion.

~ Now I would like to draw your attention to Rom. 8:15-16 where we are made aware of another interesting and practical aspect of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

#3 - THE SPIRIT'S WITNESS TO US

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

- He does not say (as some suggest) that the Holy Spirit is poured out in a 'special baptism'.
- Here what is being taught (and to our great benefit) is the rich and rewarding form of regular, daily assurance available to all believers.
- Beloved, this precious and vital everyday supply of the Spirit's witness springs up from our day to day Christian lives and must never be allowed to be minimized or overlooked by some other preoccupation with the idea of needing to push forward in the obtainment of a 'higher' or more 'special' baptism of the Spirit.

~ To further build upon this witness and work of the Spirit allow me to draw your attention to the prayer of Paul for the Christians at Ephesus beginning with Eph.1:16

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

- Teaching us that even though at conversion the Spirit is within us, we constantly need strengthening.
- Here in Eph. Paul is not praying for the lazy Christian's who want and desire assurance and the Spirit's witness through continued strength without at all attempting to serve the Lord or struggle and fight against sin

~ And this brings me to my fourth heading with regards to the continued gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit as it relates to Holiness and Personal Sanctification.

#4 - THE SPIRIT'S WORK OF SANCTIFICATION

• ...the advancement of believers in the area of holiness and sanctification is a progressive reality, involving both our own responsibility and effort in co-operation with the vital and important work of the Holy Spirit.

~ This concept is clearly seen in Gal. 5:16

Gal 5:16 [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would (or otherwise do).

- The modern view that holiness and sanctification are somehow automatic by just having faith.

- PAGE 677 in back of Hymnals 1689 Baptist Confession (Chp 13)
“They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally (1) through the same virtue, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them; (2) **the dominion** of the whole body of sin is destroyed...”
- The more the theory of this ‘automatic sanctification’ is tried, the more it is proved to be false.
- Bible, Reformers and Puritan teach that the believer is aided and helped by the power of the Spirit in actively battling personal sin.

~ And such a thought carries us right into our fifth and last point as we consider the active and wonder workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives today, which is:

#5 - THE FILLINGS OF THE SPIRIT

- The biblical position, we as historic, evangelical, reformed Christians believe, is that the only baptism of the Holy Spirit is that which occurs in connection with regeneration, upon conversion.
- Such fillings, are nothing like the additional ecstatic experience which many of the Continuationists say we must pursue after our conversion.
- We see this all throughout the recorded ‘fillings’ of the Spirit in the NT: **Acts 2:4** On the Day of Pentecost all the disciples were filled to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ among doubts and fears of persecution.
- Acts 4:31-32** The Disciples were filled again with the Spirit in answer to their prayer in v.29. They had asked, and then received, great boldness. They also received a spirit of oneness and love.
- Acts 6:3** The filling of the Spirit was regarded as a qualification for the first deacons, and spiritual wisdom and holiness of life indicated such filling.

Acts 7:55 Stephen was filled with the Spirit and given grace for martyrdom.

- These fillings of the Spirit are invisible and usually all together unfelt empowerments of the Spirit which strengthen and enables us whenever we sincerely and humbly cry out to God for help.

CONCLUSION

- ...although we do hold to the doctrine that the extra-ordinary gifts given to the early band of apostles have ended we do affirm, teach and enjoy the truly marvelous continued gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of the Church today.

END

Pray and Read the Bible together as a family this week.

Individual/Family Worship Bible Readings

Monday > Eph. 4:30 (Spirit can be grieved)

Tuesday > Genesis 1:2 (Spirit of Creation)

Wednesday > Job 33:4 (Spirit's making of man)

Thursday > Mark 13:11/Matt. 10:20 (Spirit's aid in Witnessing)

Friday > Matt.4:1 (The Spirit Leads Us)

Saturday > Acts 7:51 (The Spirit is at times resisted)

These resources are never intended to replace the involvement or instruction of your local church where you are a member, only to supplement your continued growth in the truth of God's Word.

If you do not have a home church we encourage you to search out a bible preaching, reverent worshipping assembly of local believers.