

“The Marvel of Pentecost”
Judges 3:7-11
(Preached at Trinity, January 11, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we saw last time, the first deliverer or judge over Israel was Othniel. We saw that he was unique in many ways.
 - A. We saw last time that he was an excellent leader of his home.
George Schwab: “Othniel is presented as a conquest-era hero, with a strong woman behind him, a family man related to famous Caleb. He settles down and begins to build a home and family with a good marriage.”
 - B. He was a mighty man of valor. He defeated Kiriath-sepher to win the hand of his bride. He then defeated Cushan-rishathaim to deliver Israel.
 - C. Most important, he was God's man. The name Othniel means “Lion of God.”
Strong, fearless, confident—yet, God's man.
God didn't simply look out over the land to see if there were any mighty men –
God makes mighty men.
2. We read in **Verse 10** the ultimate source of all of his excellence. We read that the Holy Spirit came upon him.
Judges 3:10 NAU - "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel."
It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that he was given wisdom to judge Israel. And it was by the power of the Holy Spirit that he went out to war and defeated Israel's enemy
Judges 3:10 NAU - "When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim."
3. This is the same pattern we see with other judges although we only see it specifically in four of the six major judges and since Deborah was a prophetess she would make five.
Judges 6:34 NAU - "So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon"
Judges 11:29 NAU - "Now the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah"
Of Samson we read three times: **Judges 14:6, 14:19, 15:14** - "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily"
4. We find in each of these the effect of the Holy Spirit upon their leadership. Their power was not their own.
As marvelous as this was that they were empowered by the Holy Spirit, it is but a shadow of the blessing that has come upon God's church in the New Covenant.
Like the judges, we are a flawed people, and like the judges we are empowered from on high, but in a marvelously different way.
Tonight I'll first set before you the nature of the Holy Spirit's presence in the Old Testament.
Then I'll contrast it with the great marvel of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to indwell all of God's people.

I. The nature of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

A. In the OT the Holy Spirit came upon men for particular purposes for a definite duration.

1. We can see this when the seventy elders prophesied before Moses
Numbers 11:24-25 NAU - " So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again."
2. The Holy Spirit came upon the craftsmen who were given skill in building the tabernacle
Exodus 31:1-5 NAU - "Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ "I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship."
3. The Holy Spirit came upon Saul when Samuel anointed him as king over Israel
1 Samuel 10:6 NAU - "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man."
4. God then withdrew His Spirit from Saul and placed Him on David
1 Samuel 16:13-14 NAU - "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. ¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him."
5. It was the Holy Spirit that anointed the prophets to speak the Word of God
Ezekiel 11:4-5 NAU - "Therefore, prophesy against them, son of man, prophesy!" ⁵ Then the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and He said to me, "Say, 'Thus says the LORD, "So you think, house of Israel, for I know your thoughts."
6. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon people powerfully, yet not necessarily with an abiding presence.
Matthew Henry speaking of Saul – “the Spirit of God came upon him, strongly and suddenly, but not so as to rest and abide upon him. It came on so as to go off quickly.”
7. David’s plea before God:
Psalms 51:11 NAU - " Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me."

B. While the Holy Spirit came upon people differently in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit was still the agent of salvation

1. The Holy Spirit was the agent of convicting the OT saint of his sins
2. The OT saints still needed regeneration – they needed circumcised hearts.
3. But the OT saints did not have the indwelling Spirit.

II. With the coming of the New Covenant a marvelous change has taken place

A. This blessed promise was foretold

1. God promised an inward change in the New Covenant – an inward power
Jeremiah 31:33 NAU - "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
Jeremiah 32:40 NAU - " I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me."
2. God promised to send forth His Holy Spirit upon His covenant people
Ezekiel 39:29-40:1 NAU - "I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD. "
Joel 2:28 NAU - "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions."
3. It would be a marvelous new work of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. In the Old Covenant the Holy Spirit came upon particular people for a particular purpose and for a particular duration. We can see this with Othniel.
Judges 3:10 NAU - "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel."
 - b. But in the New Covenant the Holy Spirit comes and enters into His people in an abiding sense. In the Old Covenant the Holy Spirit came "upon" a man. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit entered "into" men.
 - c. Jesus foretold this
John 14:16-17 NAU - "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."

B. Consider the great marvel of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4 NAS - "And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

1. First of all, Peter made it clear that this was the fulfillment of God's promise in the Old Testament
Acts 2:16-17 NAS - "but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams;'"
KJV - "this is that"

2. It was also the fulfillment of our Lord's promise to His disciples
Acts 1:4-8 NAS - "And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
3. It is a universal blessing upon every one of God's covenant people
Romans 8:9 NAS - "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

C. What effect does this have upon us?

1. We can see with Othniel that he was equipped by the Holy Spirit to judge Israel. He was empowered as a mighty warrior and Israel's enemies were subdued. He was a wise and capable judge. We read in **Verse 11 Judges 3:11 NAU** - "Then the land had rest forty years."
2. As great as the Holy Spirit empowered Othniel and the other judges His work in us is vastly greater. Remember, He came "upon" Othniel. He enters "into" us. He came upon Othniel for a season. He enters us forever.
3. The Holy Spirit illuminates our Minds – beginning with regeneration and continuing our whole life. He testifies of Christ
John 14:26 NAU - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."
4. The Holy Spirit bears witness within us that we are the children of God
Galatians 4:6 NAU - "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
5. The Holy Spirit is the Source of Holiness. Old Testament Israel struggled always with faithfulness to God. As soon as the judge died they would soon return to their blasphemous ways.
Judges 3:11-12 NAU - "And Othniel the son of Kenaz died. ¹² Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD."
 - a. God has indwelled us with the Holy Spirit who works within us.
2 Thessalonians 2:13 NAU - "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."
 - b. Paul speaks of the "fruit of the Spirit" – **Gal. 5:22**
 - c. The Holy Spirit seizes control of our minds, hearts, and wills just as alcohol seizes control of the mind in a natural sense
Ephesians 5:18 NAU - "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit"

- d. The Holy Spirit frees us from the servitude to sin
He gives us the power to live holy lives – we see the Law as good and holy
6. The Holy Spirit gives us the power for service - δύναμις
Acts 1:8 NAU - "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
1 Corinthians 12:4 NAU - "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit."
7. The Holy Spirit enlivens the affections of the believer towards God.
He enables us to comprehend the love of Christ which allows us to taste of the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:16 NAU - "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man"
Ephesians 3:19 NAU - "and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."
8. He draws us to ever increasing heights of worship
Jesus told the woman at the well that true worshippers would worship the Father in Spirit and in truth
- a. He makes the songs of praise sweet
Ephesians 5:18-19 NAU - "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord"
- b. He makes the Scriptures rich – He is the agent of Divine revelation
9. It is the Holy Spirit that stirs our hearts in prayer
Romans 8:1 NAS - "And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; "
Charles Hodge: "All true prayer is due to the influence of the Spirit, who not only guides us in the selection of the objects for which to pray, but also gives us the appropriate desires, and works within us that faith without which our prayers are of no avail."

Conclusion:

1. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?
NAS Romans 8:9 – "But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."
2. Do you submit to Him and follow His leadership or do you resist Him like those who do not have Him? Stephen preached to the unbelieving Jews
Acts 7:51 NAU - "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did."
3. Are you living with joy and marveling at His wondrous work in you? You are flawed like the judges of Israel, but God is working in you by His Holy Spirit. You have His abiding presence and His continuing work. God is accomplishing His saving purposes in you through His Spirit.