

Abide Part 3: The Holy Spirit is a Helper (9-23-2018)

New Series: Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

3 Parts: Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

Last Week: The Holy Spirit is a Connector (Examples: Dove & Wind)

Today: The Holy Spirit is a Helper (Examples: Fire & Oil)

1) The Holy Spirit is like Fire (Power & Purity) - Power to Change

Luke 3:15-18 (ESV)

(15) As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, (16) John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (17) His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (18) So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Note:

- Jesus will bring a baptism of the Holy Spirit & Fire
- He is operating as a farmer - separating & harvesting what is useful/good & burning the chaff

Winnowing Notes

The threshing floor was a flat hard area on a slightly raised platform or hill. Then in **winnowing** the grain was thrown in the air and the wind carried the chaff away. The grain was left in a pile for sale or storage.

Threshing and winnowing were a time of great festivity and rejoicing. It's harvest time!

- The Wheat and chaff are the same - The chaff is the outer shell or husk around the grain/seed
- This passage isn't about separating out good & bad people - it's about sorting you out!
- You burn up what is useless and needs to be removed, and you feed on what remains!

For too long, we have considered the Fire of the Holy Spirit to be something that gets the church excited & buzzing. Or we view it in terms of huge revivals - masses of people being lit up for God. But Biblically and Historically, the fire of the Holy Spirit has been about burning off what needs to change in **YOU and ME!**

This is exactly what the Lord is coming to do in our lives. The Holy Spirit is our Helper - bringing Fire for the purpose of changing us.

All too often we choose to identify with and hold onto the chaff. Will we allow the Holy Spirit to come like a refiner's fire into our lives to produce needed change?

This imagery of God working change in us isn't just found in this one passage:

- Jesus is pictured as Pruning us & the dead branches are burned (John 15)

John 15:2 (ESV)

Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

- God is a Refiner's fire that purifies precious metals

Proverbs 17:3 (ESV)

The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.

- God is like a Fuller's soap (Laundry soap for whitening)

Malachi 3:2-3 (ESV)

(2) But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. (3) He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

- Fire is a change agent - you apply it to something and it will change!
- The Holy Spirit as Fire is about the Power of God coming into my life in order to Purify me!
- The Holy Spirit comes with fire - bringing with Him the Power to Change

Transition (Luke 3-4): Jesus Baptism (Dove), Led into Wilderness (Wind), Temptations (Fire) and then . . .

2) The Holy Spirit is like Oil (Anointing & Appointing) - Power to Impact

Luke 4:14-19 (ESV)

(14) And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. (15) And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. (16) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. (17) And the scroll of the prophet

Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, (18) "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me**, because **he has anointed me** to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Note: Now Jesus begins to walk in power - to impact the lives of others!

Anointing is a particular activity that is done with oil in order to signify something important. Let's look at an example . . .

Samuel anoints the future King David . . .

- David is not from the royal line
- From an insignificant town - Bethlehem
- He is the youngest brother (the forgotten 8th brother)

1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Note: Remember fire is about purifying the heart! The Lord isn't looking for someone skilled & qualified to anoint with power, He is looking at the heart.

You do not have to be **qualified**, He can & will use anyone.

You have to be **surrendered**. He is looking for people who will entrust Him with their heart.

If you won't let him purify you with fire, He won't anoint you with oil!

1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

Note: Notice that with anointing came the Presence & Power of the Holy Spirit!

Dave Buehring quote on Anointing

"Anointing is consecration for a divine task with divine power to execute it"

The Holy Spirit shows up, just as Jesus promised He would. He left for our benefit so the Helper could come.

Acts 1:4-8 (ESV)

(4) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the

promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; (5) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (6) So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:1-6 (ESV)

(1) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested upon each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (5) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. (6) And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

Note: The Holy Spirit shows up . . . As Connector & Helper!

- Dove (Identity): They are all together in 1 place (Family of God)
- Wind (Surrendered to the Adventure): Remained gathered waiting for days as Jesus instructed.
- Fire (Power to Change): It came on each of them individually
- Oil (Power to Impact): Holy Spirit rested UPON them & Filled them

Results: They were given power they didn't previously have to reach people for the Kingdom that they couldn't previously reach. They began to speak languages they had never learned!

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit is our Helper - bringing the Power to Change & have an Impact

Questions to Consider:

- What is God currently changing or wanting to change in your life?
- Where do you need power to change? Invite Him there!
- Who is God currently having you impact, or who does He want to impact through you?
- What task are you facing that you could only do with His help? Invite Him there!