

Sunday, April 6, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Holy Spirit in the Book Ephesians

Series: The Holy Spirit in Ephesians...2

Text: Ephesians Chapters 4 to 6

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the work of the Holy Spirit as revealed to us in the letter to the Ephesians, with a special focus today on chapters 4 to 6.

Introduction:

Two weeks ago we began a two part consideration of the Holy Spirit in the book of Ephesians.

~ Most Bible scholars divide the letter to the Ephesians into two main parts: chapters 1 -3, Doctrinal; chapters 4 – 6, Practical.

~ In the Doctrinal we observed what the Holy Spirit does:

~ 1) SEALS Believers;

~ 2) Gives ILLUMINATION to Believers;

~ 3) UNIFIES Believers;

~ 4) OCCUPIES Believers;

~ 5) REVEALS ‘the mystery’ to Believers;

~ 6) STRENGTHENS Believers

This Sunday’s devotional focuses on the BELIEVERS response to the Holy Spirit in chapters 4 – 6.

1. Believers are to EAGERLY Maintain the UNITY of the SPIRIT:

~ Ephesians 4:3 – 6, “*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—(5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*”

~ “eager” G4704, spoudazo (11 times): endeavor, do diligence, be forward, labour, study

~ Romans 14:19, “*So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.*”

~ 1 Corinthians 1:10, “*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*”

~ Romans 16:17 – 18, “*I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. (18) For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.*”

2. Believers are NOT to GRIEVE the Spirit:

~ Ephesians 4:30, “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*”

~ “grieve” G3076, lypeo (26 times): be sorrowful, grieve, make sorry, sorrow, cause grief, be in heaviness.

~ Context:

~ vs. 26, “*Be angry and do not sin; and do not let the sun go down on your anger,*” Romans 14:23, “*For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*” 2 Corinthians 5:7, “*for we walk by faith, not by sight.*”

~ vs. 27 – 32, it is the Holy Spirit walk of FAITH that gives believers victory over the devil (27), the labor of love (28), words of edification (29), removes bitterness (31), and produces love for one another (32).

3. Believers are to WALK in Light (Spirit):

~ Ephesians 5:9, “*(for the fruit of light [KJV, Spirit] is found in all that is good and right and true),*”

~ Matthew 5:14 – 16, “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*”

~ Contrast with Isaiah 5:20, “*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*”

4. Believers are to be FILLED with the Spirit:

~ Ephesians 5:18, “*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*”

~ “be filled” is a verb written in the present tense (not past or future), and is in the passive voice (receiving) the action, and the mood is imperative (that is a command), and is in the second person plural. We can sum it up as “*keep on being filled; keep on receiving the Spirit.*” Be continuously filled!

5. Believers are to use the SWORD of the Spirit:

~ Ephesians 6:17, “*and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*”

~ Consider Numbers 1; the tribe of Levi was not numbered with Israel for war!

~ Reflect on Revelation 1:4 – 8 and James 4:7, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”

~ Romans 12:1, “*I appeal to you therefore, brothers by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship.*”

6. Believers are to PRAY in the Spirit:

~ Ephesians 6:18, “*praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*”

~ As one commentator worded it, “sticking at it with steady tenacity.”

Conclusion: Communion

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