

Week 4: Spirit as Communicator

Home group notes (Van Johnson)

Opening note:

Spirit Baptism is not: *speaking in tongues* nor *the gift of tongues*

Spirit Baptism is not: *reserved for the spiritual elite* nor *does it make you holy*

Spirit Baptism is a gift of communication

Luke 3.16: Jesus is the baptizer who baptizes us with Holy Spirit Power

What type of power? **a gift of communication**

Jesus declared in Luke 4 (from Isa 61.1-2) that the Spirit would empower his speech: Jesus will give us this same Spirit of powerful communication

This is what he told his followers -- they would receive power when the HS came upon them and they would be witnesses (**Acts 1.8**)

Spirit Baptism is signified by speaking in tongues

Spirit Baptism is not speaking in tongues but the sign of it

speaking in tongues is an appropriate sign, indicating what the gift is:

When we speak in tongues, we are speaking beyond our own ability, which tells us what the gift is: an ability to speak beyond our own human ability

Spirit Baptism enables empowered speech to others and to God

To others

As the Spirit enabled Jesus to communicate to others, he enables us as well

affects both what you say and the impact it has

consider the example of Peter, whose witness came in his sermon after he had spoken in tongues

tongues drew a crowd, but it was the sermon that led people to Jesus

2. To God

Spirit also enables our speech to God that exceeds our own ability

1. Acts 2.11: the crowd heard praise, the wonders of God being declared

2. 1Cor14.13-15 Paul calls this 'praying with the Spirit' (instead of 'with the mind')

3. Rom 8.26-27 when you pray by the Spirit (in tongues) it is a sign that something else is going on, that the Spirit is praying through you (with groans)

Concluding thoughts:

1. We may have emphasized praying to God more than speaking to others: do not neglect the latter!

2. This gift is available to all

3. It is not a sign of spiritual maturity; but an indication of ability