

Sermon Series: “When Heaven Invades Earth”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—5/27/2007

Title: “When the Holy Spirit Invades our Word”

Text: Acts 1: 8, 2: 1-4

Intro.: Ills.: Reconnected to the power

Theme: On this anniversary of the Christian Church’s beginning, we come to realize that with the same power and miracle that Jesus began his Church through the Spirit’s coming, he plans to continue the invasion of heaven into earth through the continued sending of the Holy Spirit in our day and age.

Heaven’s invasion of earth: it is not about us but it does happen through us!

- Sometimes, in our haste to be in charge we take the Holy Spirit right out of the Church
 1. “Do not quench the Spirit.” 1 Thess 5: 19
 2. **Ills.: Disastrous Hunting Trip**
 3. Not dictating the Spirit’s activity but not blocking it either
 4. A spiritual versus a secular church – what makes a church the Church?
- Saving faith that comes to us and through us only comes by the Holy Spirit at work through Word and Sacrament
 1. Overwhelmed but not paralyzed by the world-wide evangelizing task before us
 - a. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1: 8
 - b. There was less than 500 believers when Jesus left, but look at how the Spirit multiplied the Church through them
 2. Trying to win others to the faith by the Spirit rather than by manipulation
 - a. “No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.” 1 Cor 12: 3
 - b. “Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 38
 3. Learning to use the tool of God’s Word to lead others to Jesus
 - a. So faith comes from hearing the message, and the message that is heard is what Christ spoke. Romans 10:17
 - b. Knowing the word of God does not come by accident but by discipline in our personal and church life

Anticipating the arrival of the Spirit’s power in our lives and church (Print and read Acts 2: 1-4)

- Believing that the Holy Spirit will still show up
 1. The 120 disciples followed Jesus’ command and were waiting in Jerusalem for the promise
 2. Expecting the Holy Spirit presence in our lives, homes, and worship
 - a. Praying together that the Holy Spirit might “shake the house”
 - i. “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4: 31
 - b. This involves a personal commitment to be involved in the heavenly invasion of earth (**Acts 1: 8**)
- Making ourselves available for the Spirit to act
 1. The event of Pentecost was and are a fulfillment of God’s promise
 - a. “After this, I will pour my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour my Spirit on servants, on both men and women. Joel 2: 28-29
 - b. God’s Holy Spirit publicly displayed his power and presence in the disciples to get the world’s attention
 - c. God’s plan was not to stop with the early church but to empower His Church by His Spirit through the ages
 - d. As each one has received a spiritual gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10
 2. Intentionally putting your Spirit empowered gifts into action both in and outside of the church
 - a. **Discover — Print and read 1 Corinth. 12: 1, 4-7**

-- **Illus.: Discovering the Holy Spirit**

– The early disciples really did not have to go out and find the Holy Spirit; He found them

b. *Develop* — **Print and read 1 Timothy 4: 14-16**

c. *Deploy* — **Print and read Romans 12: 4-6**

Reconnected to the Power

When a hurricane hit South Florida, Norena's home was one of many that was severely damaged. The elderly woman received an insurance settlement, and the repair work began. However, when the money ran out, so did the contractor, leaving an unfinished home with no electricity. Norena has been living without power ever since. The astounding part of this story is that the hurricane was not Katrina, but Andrew. Hurricane Andrew struck in 1992. Norena has been living in that dark, unfinished house for 15 years. No heat when the winter chill settled over South Florida. No air conditioning when the mercury climbed into the 90's and the humidity clung to 100 percent. Not one hot shower. Without money to finish the repairs, Norena just got by with a small lamp and a single burner. Her neighbors didn't seem to notice the absence of power. Acting on a tip, the mayor of Miami-Dade got involved. It only took a few hours of work by electrical contractor Kent Crook to return power to the house. CBS News says Norena plans to let the water get really hot, and then take her first bubble bath in a decade and a half. "It's hard to describe having [the electricity]...to switch on," she said. "It's overwhelming."

KUTV, "Woman Turns Lights on After 15 Years in the Dark," KUTV.com (2-17-07); submitted by John Beukema, Chambersburg, Pennsy

Disastrous Hunting Trip

A couple of hunters are out in the woods of New Jersey when one of them falls to the ground. He doesn't seem to be breathing; his eyes are rolled back in his head. Terrified, his friend whips out his cell phone and calls the emergency services. "My friend is dead! What can I do?" he cries over the phone. The operator, in a calm, soothing voice says, "Just take it easy. I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There is a moment of silence, and then a single shot is heard. The guy's voice comes back on the line: "Okay, now what?" **Source:**

www.laughlab.co.uk; submitted by Aaron Goerner, Utica, New York

Discovery the Holy Spirit

One of the more humorous quirks of scientific history is the debate over who should get the credit for discovering oxygen. Joseph Priestley, an English scientist and clergyman, is often given that honor because he was the first to publish his findings, doing so in 1774. Interestingly, Priestley originally called the gas, "dephlogisticated air." However, in 1772, two years prior to Priestley's find, a Swedish chemist named Carl Scheele independently discovered the gas that is vital to human existence. Strangely enough, the term oxygen didn't actually come into use until 1775, when yet another chemist, Frenchman Antoine Lavoisier, discovered and named the gas we breathe. Lavoisier was the first to recognize oxygen as one of our natural elements.

Regardless of who gets the credit, it's odd to think of a human being "discovering" oxygen. Does a fish discover water? The truth is that oxygen literally surrounds us every day, and even if we choose to call it

"dephlogisticated air," we can't live without it. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. **"Discovery of Oxygen,"**

http://www.juliantrubin.com; submitted by Clark Cothorn, Tecumseh, Michigan

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4

When Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Passover, came, all the believers were together in one place. ²Suddenly, a sound like a violently blowing wind came from the sky and filled the whole house where they were staying.

³Tongues that looked like fire appeared to them. The tongues arranged themselves so that one came to rest on

each believer. ⁴All the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. [GW]

1 Cor. 12:1, 4-7

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. . . Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Tim. 4:14-16

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

Romans 12:4-6

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith.