

The Spirit of Change Has Come

Ezek 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them

I. Introduction

1. Three weeks ago, I preached, “This is Pentecost.” And we spoke about how the Holy Ghost was poured out for the first time on multiple believers at the same time on the Day of Pentecost, which started the church, or the kingdom of God on earth.
2. And from there, the church expanded by the power of the Holy Ghost across the world, for Jews and Gentiles.

3. And since that happened on Pentecost, that is why we as a church, call ourselves Pentecostal.
4. Pentecost was a Jewish feast that commemorated the giving of the law to Moses on Mt. Sinai, and year after year, they looked back to the giving of the law that had changed the world landscape.
5. The people now had providing Gods moral standards of conduct written in stone. Not just by word-of mouth, but engraved by the finger of God in stone.
6. But just because God's standards were now written in stone, did not assure that people would obey God's law. It just provided the moral measurement to judge our conduct against God's standards.
7. How many of us have some knowledge of what God calls sin and yet still have difficulty avoiding it? We need help. **Help Wanted!**

8. But the unique thing about when Pentecost was fully come, was that the Spirit fully came on that day to abide within mankind.
 9. And that abiding Spirit would now provide the power to comply with the Spirit of the law, by the Spirit by writing the law in our hearts.
 10. That is what happens when the **Spirit of Change Has Come.**
- II. How to obey the Word
 - A. Human attempts to comply
 1. Many people on their own, manage some compliance with rules for right and wrong, but without the Spirit of the Law in us, there is a real danger of avoiding a law that we disagree with.
 2. Yes, there is a standard that says this is wrong so avoid it, but what happens when we don't have the Spirit of the Law within, is that we eventually reach a point when we don't understand a law and we just dismiss

- the law saying, “I don’t see it that way,” or “Well, the way I see it is...”
3. Whatever compliance we can come up with outside the Spirit is not based on the Spirit, but on ***the way I see it.***
 4. And that is a major problem to us and in our world. There is a lack of a moral standard that everyone can agree on.
 5. If you have been paying attention, even over the past 10 years, you will see how that shifting popular opinions have caused major changes in our laws. **What was wrong is now right, and what was right is now wrong.**
 6. But if we go back to the basic 10 laws that God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai, the 10 commandments, we can see how God intended to set in place, a **Spirit of Change.**
 7. Initially, God called all His people to come to the mountain to receive the Law so they could catch the Spirit of change that God intended.

8. But the people were terrified of the voice of God and said they didn't want to go themselves, but they wanted to send Moses as their representative instead.
 9. So the people did not experience full Pentecost for themselves, just sort of a hand-me-down experience.
 10. Even after the law was given, complying with it was still a problem. There were those who did the minimum to look the part while missing the heart of the law. They didn't catch the Spirit of the Law.
 11. But that is where the Spirit came in and created the Spirit of Change Has Come.
- B. By One Spirit
1. I want us to look at how the Spirit of Change can come over us to empower us to receive God's law within us that can change us into His kids walking in obedience to His Word and His will.

2. Not just outwardly trying to comply with God's standard, but by something powerful within.
3. First of all, let me ask: How did you get into the church? Or I could ask it this way, How did you get in church?
4. I'm not talking about that door over there, I'm talking about God's heavenly church, what the scripture calls the body of Christ? How did you become a part of the Body of Christ?

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

5. There is one Spirit that baptized you in—called the Holy Ghost.
6. When you were baptized, or filled with the Holy Ghost, you were baptized into the church.

7. We may say, “I want to join the church,” but receiving the Holy Ghost is what it takes to join God’s church.
8. And this passage describes a benefit of being baptized by the Spirit: being made to drink into that one Spirit.
9. And then when the Spirit is moving in the assembly, as we have been feeling so deeply recently, we are “made to drink” of that one Spirit.
10. In Ephesians, it makes clear there is just one body (church) and one Spirit:

Eph 4:3-6

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

*4 There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

*5 **One Lord**, one faith, one baptism,*

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

- c. Holy One of Israel is the Holy One of Nazareth
1. 52 times in the scripture the phrase “Holy One” used, some times “Holy One of Israel,” or just “Holy One.”
 2. It was a reference to the one God that Israel worshiped.
*Isa 12:6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the **Holy One of Israel** in the midst of thee.*
 3. It was also a reference to the **Holy One who came in flesh**, that even the demons recognized as that same Holy One who had always been:
*Mark 1:24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou **Jesus of Nazareth?** art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, **the Holy One of God.***
 4. Eventually the apostles understood that truth and when they preached the gospel message, they referred to **Jesus as the Holy One:**

*Acts 3:14 But ye denied **the Holy One and the Just**, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;*

5. This is all important, that there is just one Holy One of Israel, the **Author of the commandments**, is the same Holy One of the Church that we worship, and the same Holy One whom we receive INSIDE us when we are filled with the Holy Ghost.

6. It is Jesus and not another whom we receive when the Holy Ghost comes on us.
***Phil 1:19** For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,*

Acts 16:6-7

6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit [of Christ] suffered them not.

Rom 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

7. And when speaking about the Old Testament prophets, Peter said it was the “Spirit of Christ” who spoke through them:
1 Peter 1:11 *Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.*

- III. Your will be done on earth
 1. In this quick study about the Spirit, we see that from the Old Testament through the New Testament, there was but one Spirit of God.
 2. And when Jesus came, He was NOT some other who came—He was that Holy One who came in flesh to the earth to redeem us by His sacrifice on the cross that

provided a way for us to obtain forgiveness of our sins.

3. The perfect Lamb of God gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin, that we can apply to our own sins so we will not have to be judged for those sins.
4. Then not only did the Holy One provide us the Law of commandments, and also provide a path to find forgiveness, but He also offered to give His Spirit to those who believed.
5. Not a little dribble of His Spirit to once in a while give us a feel-good experience, but a baptism of His Spirit, the filling of His Spirit, that would always live within us.
6. And not as a silent partner merely to hang around our neck or to hide in our pocket as a good-luck charm, but as a managing partner to direct our every step and choice in life.
7. That is why Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.”

8. I'm not here to pursue my will until I run into a problem, then pull out an occasional prayer for help and deliverance.
9. I am Holy Ghost filled so that Pentecost can fully come into my life and that will write His Word in my heart so I can live out His will on earth.

IV. When Pentecost fully comes

A. Me and God doing my own thing

1. I briefly spoke about the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, and how the commandments provided a way for God's will to be done on earth.
2. But in Moses' day, the people did not receive the commandments personally, but through Moses as their representative.
3. And that was their choice because God's presence scared them.
4. But now, the Spirit is given **for us** and **to us** personally. One on one.

5. You may have heard that God doesn't have any grandchildren. That means that your relationship with God cannot be because your parents are saved. Your relationship with God must be that you found and developed a relationship with God for yourself.
 6. God wants a One-on-one relationship with you.
 7. Some people take that on their own terms and say, I don't need the church, or even the Bible. It's just me and Jesus doing our own thing.
- B. God's Gift in God's terms
1. Well the Holy Ghost is a great gift, but it does not come on our terms, but God's terms.
 2. Remember, the Spirit was given on the day commemorating the giving of God's law—God's covenant. That was not a

coincidence. Man had a problem with keeping that covenant.

3. They were not there to experience the mountain-top experience with Moses.
4. And while Moses glowed with the glory of God after being in God's presence, the people of Israel, did not glow.
5. Instead, by the time Moses came down from that glorious experience, the people were indulging in sinful behavior, worshiping a golden calf, dancing before it naked, and doing all sorts of ungodly things.
6. That was happening at the same time God was giving Moses the holy commandments of the Law.
7. **[slide] Moses glowed in godly glory as the people debased themselves through devilish desire.**
8. But for Moses, he could have said, "This is one of those situations where you just had to have been there."

9. If they had seen, heard, and felt what Moses had seen, heard, and felt, they would not have been doing what they were doing.
 10. There was no spirit of change to impact the people. It was only words to them.
 11. We can look at the world and be appalled by what they are doing in rebellion against God, but they have not seen, heard, and felt what we have seen, heard, and felt.
 12. We have received the Spirit of Change that has made God's Word alive in our hearts!
- c. It took a new covenant—change written within
1. God saw how His people had failed to honor His covenant and promised them a new covenant that would replace it. But this covenant would include the Spirit of Change:

Jer 31:31-33

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD,

*that I will **make a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:*

*32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers [**on Mt. Sinai**] in the day that I took them by the hand to **bring them out of the land of Egypt**; which **my covenant they brake**, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:*

*33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

2. Do you see how God makes His covenant personal?
3. He did not say I'll have a personal, one-on-one relationship with people based on what they think the relationship should be.
4. No, He said the relationship that made Him their God and them His people, was that He

put His law in their inward parts and wrote it in their hearts.

5. The relationship is still about His law, but it is based on His Spirit—the Spirit of Change that gets a hold of us.
6. Notice how Ezekiel explained that new covenant and how the Spirit of Change would be the thing that made the difference this time:

Ezek 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

7. The reason why so many people have so many opinions about what is right and wrong, is their response to moral situations is: “Well, the way I see it, is...”

8. God never intended for His standards to be “the way we see it.” That was the very thing that caused the problem in the first place.
9. But when the Spirit of Change comes within us, the world can be changed one heart at a time by the Spirit of Change.
10. When God’s Word and His counsel gets into our hearts, it first blesses us, then blesses our nation:

Ps 33:11-12

11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. [including our generation in 2021]

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

11. God’s people are those whom He has filled with His Spirit.
- v. Conclusion

1. What we need this morning is the Spirit of Change to come over us.
2. We need deliverance from the sins that bind us, but many people (1) don't realize their lifestyle is sinful and (2) don't realize that God offers them the pleasures and joys they were seeking after through sin, only through His holiness and His law in our hearts.

3. But it takes the Spirit of Change from God's presence:

Ps 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

4. I need and want a new Spirit:

Ezek 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and

cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

5. The Spirit of Change Has Come, giving us the power to live right.
6. Yes, even in this world that has been turned upside down, which calls evil good and good evil, we can read God's Word, and ingest God's Word.
7. And if we have received the Holy Ghost, you will find His speaking His Word to your heart in the moment you need it the most.