

Sermon ~ Sunday, August 9, 2020 by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Acts 19: 2a (Read verses 1-7)

KJV – “He said unto them, Have ye *received* The HOLY GHOST since ye believed?

Title: “Since I Met JESUS!”

An *answer* came to me, for the *questions*, that flooded my soul... “**HE** *answered* and said to me, This is **The WORD of The LORD**: Not by *might*, nor by *power*, but by **MY SPIRIT**, saith **The LORD of Hosts.**” (Zechariah 4: 6)

It is well to note, what *question* The Apostle Paul in the context (Acts 19: 1-7), did not ask, these 12 disciples of John the Baptizer, in Ephesus. Paul did not say to them, “Have you *believed*?” A very important question for any day, especially to-day?

A person ‘**Faith in GOD’S G.R.A.C.E.**, through **JESUS CHRIST**, is the Corner-Stone of The Edifice of *godliness*, in this ungodly world. If The Corner-Stone (**JESUS, The CHRIST**) is not laid, there can be no *sense of security* to the inhabitant of the house. We *must* know *what*, ‘We *believe*’, but also know, ‘**WHO** we *believe*—**JESUS, The CHRIST**’; and grow, advance beyond common *believing* to assurance; to full assurance—the assurance of *Faith*; assurance of *Hope*; assurance of *Love*; assurance of *Understanding*, and, assurance of a *Living—Sharing testimony!*

Again, Paul does not put the question, “If you have *believed*, what happened?” By what agencies was this Faith created in your souls? When did you first become *believers*? Was it on a Sunday or Monday? Do you remember the sermon text? The question is not about *ways*, *means*, *times*, but Paul ask— ‘Have you received **The HOLY GHOST** since you *believed*?’ ‘Did you *receive* **The HOLY GHOST** when you *believed*?’ ‘Are you *receiving* **The HOLY GHOST** now, that you have *believed*?’ ‘Do you see a connection between your *believing* and *receiving* **JESUS, The CHRIST** and **The HOLY GHOST**?’

This is a vital *question*, for all we are experiencing to-day? From your biblical knowledge, I know you know, **The Works of The HOLY Spirit** *manifests HIMSELF*, through *miracles*, *signs* and *wonders*. **HE** *empowers* to ‘*speak other languages*’, to ‘*prophesy*’, to ‘*heal*’ by *spoken word* or the *laying on of hands* and diseases flee. But there’s a greater Work than these *transitory experiences*. Like, **The HOLY SPIRIT’ Work** to ‘*quicken* men lives from their *death in sin*; **HIS work** to *comfort* men and make them glad *in CHRIST JESUS*; **HIS work** to lift a man out of his *sinful estate*, and make him to be a *child of GOD*, for ever.

The *question*, ‘Have you *received* **The HOLY GHOST** since you *believed*?’ ‘Are you living under **HIS Divine Influence**?’ ‘Are you filled with **HIS Power**?’ “Have you *received* **The HOLY GHOST** since you *believed*?’ Did you *receive* **HIM** when you *believed*?’ ‘Are you *receiving* **HIM** now, that you are *believing in* **CHRIST JESUS**?’

“Since I Met JESUS!”

I can testify—please, I hope you can also (If not, I’m praying you will...)

- **The HOLY GHOST is The Author of all Spiritual Life.**

Life does not lie latent in a natural man power. The natural man does not stir up himself. Until **The HOLY GHOST** visits him (and **HE has...** “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith **GOD, I will** pour out of **MY SPIRIT** upon all flesh...” Joel 2: 28; Acts 2: 28) they are dead men walking in trespasses and *sin(s)*. *If*, when you one *believed*, and had not Life imparted by **The HOLY SPIRIT**, their *believing* was a dead *believing*, the mere counterfeit of living faith, and not **The Faith of GOD’S elect**. *If* **The HOLY GHOST** has not been with you since your conversion, every act has been ‘*religious vs. CHRISTianity: singing but no testimony; telling/teaching but no testimony; praying but no power*; “that which is flesh is flesh, and nothing better, let that flesh be washed and cleansed, yet all that comes of it is flesh, only that which is born of **The SPIRIT is spirit.**” (John 3: 6)

- **The HOLY GHOST is The Author of all True Instruction.**

To be taught by yourself, by the Pastor-Teacher along, by some other Potentate is nothing, but to be taught *of The LORD, through The HOLY GHOST is everything*. It is **The SPIRIT of GOD WHO** can *engrave The TRUTH* upon the fleshy tablets of the heart. *Only HE* can speak to the inmost soul.

- **The HOLY GHOST has come upon us to Transform Us Together.**

By **Divine G.R.A.C.E.**, we are not now what we used to be, we have *new thoughts, new hopes, new aspirations, new sorrows, new joys*, and these are worked in us by **The SPIRIT**. Our *conversion* is nothing; our *believing* is nothing, our *professions* is nothing unless we are made to be ‘*new creations in CHRIST JESUS.*’ We can not be made *new* by any other power than **The HOLY SPIRIT!** *Only HE* that creates can create-*new!* “Except a man be born again, he cannot see **The KINGdom of GOD.**” (John 3: 3)

- **The HOLY GHOST Sanctifies.**

A *Faith* that works not for *purification* will work for *putrefaction*: the process of decay or rotting in a body. Unless our *Faith* makes us *pine after holiness*, and *pant after conformity* to **GOD**, it is not better than the faith of devils, and perhaps it is not even as good as that. No one can become *Holy* except by **The SPIRIT of Holiness!** *Faith* which does not bring *Holiness* with it, is a dead faith which will never bring us into communion *with The Living GOD.*

- **The HOLY GHOST makes us PRAY-ERS.**

After Saul, *met JESUS* on the Damascus road, **The LORD HIMSELF** said to Ananias, ‘...go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.’ (Acts 9: 11) *Praying* without **The SPIRIT of GOD** is mechanical performance; a statute *praying*; a posture that leaves one *weary, heartless*, and the result shall be *worthless*. What is the *incense* without the *burning coals*? What is **The Mercy Seat** without **The SHEKINAH Light**? *Prayer* without **The SPIRIT** is as a bird without wings!

- **The HOLY GHOST is The Comforter—JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.**

Oh, we need *comforting!* *Why* do you hang your heads? *Why* should we feel discouraged? *Why* shouldn’t the shadows come? *Why* shouldn’t our hearts feel lonely, and long for heaven and home? When **JESUS is** our portion! Our constant **FRIEND is HE! HIS EYE is** on the sparrow, And I know **HE watches** over me. Whenever I’m tempted; Whenever clouds arise; When *song* gives place to sighing; When *hope* within me dies, I *draw* the closer to **HIM**;

from care **HE** makes me free! **HIS Eye** is on the sparrow, and I know **HE** watches me.

The JOY of JESUS is my Strength.

- **The HOLY GHOST Enlighten.**

Do you not read **The WORD of GOD**? Do you not hear as though you heard not?

The HOLY GHOST leads into all **TRUTH—JESUS CHRIST!** How much blessed-happier we would be, much useful, if we knew more of the things of **GOD!** **The HOLY SPIRIT** can take the things of **CHRIST**, and show them to you (as **HE** does to me)!

Oh, **The Glory of The SPIRIT of GOD** when **HE** makes you feel that we are no more servants, but sons/daughters of **GOD**; not under the Law, but **GRACE**, obeying/fulfilling Law; not under wrath, but under **GOD'S LOVE**; not doomed to death, but endowed with Life! Freed from the prison-house to knowing, goodness and Mercy is following us, on our way Home!

We can feel **The SPIRIT of GOD** empowering us, moving and impelling us to Holy service.

We hear behind us **The Voice** saying, 'This is **The Way**; walk ye in it!' Working and empowers us to achieve the *purpose* which was put into our souls! **Glory HALLELUJAH!!!**

Oh, for more of **The Anointing of The HOLY GHOST WHOM CHRIST** is prepared to give immeasurably unto us if we will but receive **HIM!** 'Have you received **The HOLY GHOST** since you *believed*?' Is there not much **Divine power** which has not as yet been manifested in you?

In closing, the text, says, 'There *must* be a continuing to live by **Receiving The HOLY GHOST**. We *received* **CHRIST JESUS The LORD** at first, now we *receive* **The HOLY GHOST**. These twelve *disciples* of John the Baptizer, were questioned about their *receiving* rather than their *expending*, for a bottom everything depends upon what we *receive*. Nothing can come out of us if it does not first go into us. We are always '*charity children*.' The question may still be asked of us, "What hast thou which thou hast not *received*?" We are always filled out of the fullness of **The LORD**, for we are not fountains but reservoirs, not creators but *receivers*. What shall we render unto **The LORD** for *all HIS benefits* towards us? I will take the cup of salvation... I will offer to **THEE** the sacrifice of thanksgiving... I will pay my vows unto **The LORD** now in the presence of all his people..." (Psalm 116)

And The HOLY SPIRIT always keeps us, in sweet company with JESUS CHRIST.

All along these disciples only *knew* John the Baptist, they *knew* of water baptism, but they did not know **the Baptism of The HOLY GHOST**. It was only when they came to *know* **JESUS**, that **The SPIRIT of GOD** came upon them, and they began to work those mighty things which are **The Fruit of The SPIRIT**: Love: that is, *Love for GOD* and our neighbor; Joy: that is *spiritual joy*, in the midst of hardship and suffering; Peace: with **GOD** and promoting peace with our brothers and sisters; Patience: endurance in trial and hardship, sympathy and understanding for our brother; Kindness, Goodness, and Faithfulness: being merciful and forgiving; seeking opportunities to do good to all, being faithful and reliable; Gentleness: being gentile not only in our outward behavior but also in our inward *spirit*; Self-control: that is placing our old sinful self under the control of **The SPIRIT**, refusing to gratify the desires of the *sinful* nature.

Since I met JESUS

There's a burning, O such a burning deep down within.
It holds me with an unseen power, And turns me away from *sin*;
It changes me from day to day, As I trod (walk) along this narrow way.
Since I met JESUS, Since **HE** blessed this old soul of mine;
It makes me want to run on, shout Hallelujah, to the End.

Since I met JESUS

I keep toiling, yes, in the sunshine and the rain
But the service that I am giving
Will not be giv'n in vain.
HE fixed it so a long time ago
That to heaven I would surely go;
Since I met JESUS, Since **HE** blessed this old soul of mine,
It makes me want to run on, shout Hallelujah, Oh to the End.

(Chorus)

HIS Yoke is easy (**HIS Yoke is easy**; **HIS Yoke is easy**)
HIS Burdens are light (**HIS Burdens are light**; **HIS Burdens are light**)
If I walk where **HE leads** me (walk where **HE leads** me)
I'll always be right (always be right)
So, I'll cherish the race (cherish the race)
That I'm running with haste (running with haste)
And by **HIS GRACE** (and by **HIS GRACE**)
I'm going to make it Home some day! (I'm going to make it home some day!)

“Since I Met JESUS (**HIS Yoke is Easy**)
by the Victorian Gospel Singers

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