

The Agenda of God, For the Glory of God, His Church

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, you have heard from me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority." "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:4-8)

To many people want God to bring about change for them, instead of through them. Prayer is us petitioning God for change, but obedience is us walking out the calling that God gives us, working together with Him, to bring about change.

"Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. (Acts 1:21-23)

The Church is a revolving door. People will come into the church for the right reasons, and the wrong reasons. People will leave the church for the right reasons, and for the wrong reasons. Relationships will blossom, some will last a lifetime, some for a season, some will end in tears. But the mission of the church will continue until Christ returns.

The power of the Holy Spirit, and Satan's attempts to stop it.

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean"? Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine". (Acts 2:12-13)

This move of the Spirit was immediately followed by a spirit of confusion.

"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints". (1 Corinthians 14:33)

"For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (James 3:16)

Satan's first attempt to stop the move of the Spirit is to bring confusion.

Peter inpowered by the Holy Spirit heals the lame man at the gate of the temple.

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you: In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk".

And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. (Acts 3:6-7)

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. (Acts 4:1-3)

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, rulers of the people and elders of Israel: "If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 'Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.'" (Acts 4:8-10)

But so that it spreads no further among the people let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name. So, they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you Judge.

Satan's' second attempt to stop the move of the Spirit is to bring fear through threats.

The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind. (2nd Timothy 1:7)

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" (Acts 5:27-28)

And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God. And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. (Acts 5:38-40)

Satan's' third attempt to stop the move of the Spirit is to bring persecution of some sort.

Satan will influence people to go against their own established policy, in order to force their agenda on others, hoping to justify their actions by the end result.

Yes, and all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2nd Timothy 3:12)

Summary;

It's not about me, and it's not about you. God will transform our lives, and the world we live in, when we walk in obedience to His agenda, for His glory.

Relationships with people in the church will come and will go. But our relationship with the Father must remain strong, and our focus must remain on the mission of the church, His agenda, not our agenda. For his glory, not our glory.

Satan's' devices to stop the Spirit of God from moving through us, to accomplish His purpose...

Confusion (confusion leads to division, instead of peace leading to unity)

Threats (threats bring fear which paralyzes, instead of love which activates)

Persecution (persecution causes people to look inward at their circumstances, instead of outward at the needs of others).