

“Where is the Light?”

Written April of 2018

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:15

Thank you to the Adventurer Club (*Club for children ages 1-9*) leaders for today's invitation to bring a Message for the children and for their parents. The title of today's Message asks a question that answers the epidemic of all Christianity today.

- Why have churches gotten cold in their Faith?
- Why aren't there any visible signs of the Power of God?
- Why does it seem that prayer doesn't work?
- Why do churchgoers argue the Word of God with someone?
- Why has tradition become more important than Relationship with almighty God.

Let us have a word of prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate our minds and open our hearts to receive what the Lord has prepared for us today.

Sermon

Let's begin today with a few quick survey questions.

1. Who is God?
2. Who is Jesus?
3. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The first time we read of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament is in **Matthew 3:11**. John the Baptist describes the Holy Spirit as a Fire. This Baptism of “**Fire**” that is spoken of has a very important role to play in this TWO-PART equation that John the Baptist is introducing to us.

What does fire do in the Physical dimension? It consumes everything in its path, right? So, the FIRE of GOD does the same for us spiritually. This two-part equation is referenced again in the beginning of the Gospel of John.

John 3:3 & 5 - Here Jesus is speaking with Nicodemus and tells him that being Born Again is the only way that he (*and we*) can see or perceive the KINGDOM. In **Verse 5:** he states “**Accept a man be Born of water AND Born of the Spirit he cannot enter into the KINGDOM.**”

The Born Again experience was a vital part of the early church. It was so important that in one of the final encounters the Disciples had with Jesus before His ascension, Jesus emphasized its importance. Let's turn to **Acts 1: 5 & 8**.

Jesus reinforced the importance of being baptized by water, of which John the Baptist dedicated his life to preaching, but he lovingly reminded them of the second half of the equation. The Baptism of the Spirit. This Baptism of the Spirit would provide them POWER and Authority in Jesus name.

Titus 3:5 tells us that we are recreated back to Gods' original plan for Mankind which was to have **ONENESS**. Through the conversion power of the Holy Spirit we are Sanctified so that the Trinity (Kingdom) can live and dwell in us. Every day we must ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and continue this work of conversion, to continue this work of Sanctification on a daily basis. We must allow and invite the Holy Spirit to continue this work of molding our character. Let's turn to **Isaiah 64:8** to get a better idea of what God is calling all of us to do in our Christian lives.

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your Hand."

We are the Clay and HE is the POTTER! Every day we MUST allow God to chip away our imperfections and mold us day by day into the image of His Son Jesus. This Video Clip is a Skit that will hopefully illustrate this for us.

****Video clip: Skit Guys "Gods Chisel"**

This process of Sanctification / Conversion is the work of our lifetimes brethren and can only be obtained through / by asking the Holy Spirit to baptize us. Paul tells us in **I Corinthians 6:19** that ***"our bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit"***. We all know that where the Holy Spirit is, there is Jesus and there is God.

Paul also tells us in **Romans 8:9 & 10** that if we don't have the Spirit of Christ in us, we are NOT a part of Him. But if Christ is in us, then we have life, because He is Righteous.

To close todays Message today I will be showing a short video clip of the parable of the Ten Virgins. This is a parable that we have heard hundreds of times since childhood but I am sure we have never dug deep to understand how important it is for our SALVATION! Let us all watch and we will close after this clip.

****Video Clip-Parable of Ten Virgins by Nest Family Entertainment.**

Closing

This Parable can be found in **Matthew 25:1-13** if you wanted to read it later, but let's review the bullet points of what Jesus was trying to show us through this powerful parable. Let's keep in mind that Jesus used parables to teach on the deep things and meaning of the Kingdom.

In this Parable (5) were foolish and (5) were wise. This term "Foolish" and "Wise" were introduced in the Parable of the two men that went to build their house. One built it on sand and the other on the ROCK. Both went to build a house; however, one built his house on Religion, Traditions and manmade customs and One built his house on the TRUE Gospel of the Kingdom. As **James 1:22** tells us:

"One was a doer of the Word and one was a hearer"

The number (10) was a very symbolic number in the Jewish culture. Which is why most likely Jesus chose that number. What did all the Virgins have in common?

- They were all preparing for the wedding feast
- They all had oil
- They all had fallen asleep

Now when the Bridegroom finally came, they rushed to meet Him and enter into the Wedding Feast. However, the foolish Virgins did NOT make the necessary preparations to obtain additional oil. The Wise Virgins didn't share their oil, because if they did, they would have been left in darkness and could not find their way to join the Wedding Feast.

What does the oil represent? Theologians and Scholars have gone round and round with this question and I will share with you what the Holy Spirit showed me. **This oil represents Truth! The Truth of the True Gospel of the Kingdom.** Salvation is individual which is why the wise Virgins could not and did not share their oil. Just because you are in a family of Believers doesn't mean you are saved. Just because you are in a religion or denomination doesn't mean that you are saved. Just because you eat in a certain way and worship on a certain day doesn't mean you are saved.

Now they all had oil to begin with, they all had the Truth of the Word of God to begin with but what distinguished the Wise from the Foolish was that the Wise sought out more Truth. They didn't sit back comfortable with what they had, they sought out more oil. They looked for a deeper meaning of the Truth they had received **THEY WERE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT ONLY HEARERS.**

There are many "christians" that accept a denominations fundamental beliefs and literally just warm a church pew. They sit on the sidelines half asleep to the work of the Holy Spirit and they think that by merely showing up to the Wedding Feast saying they have heard of the Bridegroom that it grants them Eternity in Heaven. We **MUST KNOW HIM** and have an intimate relationship with Him. This is why when Jesus referred to the Wedding Feast (Second Coming) in **Matthew 7:21-23**, He specifically speaks to those who follow Religion and tells them "**depart from ME I never knew you**"

"The only guarantee of Faith we can ever have is the continual search for Truth, NOT RELIGION!"

This was significant for the audience listening to Jesus, because many of them were Pharisees and Sadducees that had read all the denominational books, they kept the Sabbath, they didn't eat pork and they adhered to the mosaic law. They thought that merely labeling themselves as "Believers in God" that it would be enough. Yet with all the Truth they had heard their whole lives they never ignited the OIL/Truth with the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

The only way that the world can know that we have a Truth is ONLY when we invite the Holy Spirit to ignite that TRUTH. **Matthew 5:14-16** tells us ***“we are the light of the world” and that we shouldn’t “put that light under a bushel” to cover it up.***

In the Parable of the “Ten Virgins” what was the determining factor that the Bridegroom could tell who was at the Gate? It was the LIGHT given off in the Spiritual Dimension by the Flame on the Lamp. Friends our bodies are that lamp.

The FIRE or FLAME is the Holy Spirit burning within us. It’s the oil of the True Gospel of the Kingdom that keeps the Flame/Fire of the Holy Spirit burning brightly within us.

That flame can ONLY be evident to the Bridegroom **IF** we are Born Again. As Jesus told Nicodemus, we will NEVER see the Kingdom or Wedding Feast on that day unless we are Born Again. **It is the Fire of God in us that distinguishes us as a True Follower of God. A DOER OF THE WORD OF GOD.**

The True Gospel of the Kingdom sets your spirit on FIRE for God and then we truly become the LIGHTS OF THIS WORLD! Everyone has heard Truth but if we don’t live that Truth and be Doers of that Truth it grants us nothing. Let’s turn to our final text this morning. **Matthew 7:21-23.**

Be careful not to fall into the trap that just by being part of denomination that it grants you entrance into the Wedding Feast of the Lord. God is seeking those who have been Born Again and have had a relationship with Him. He won’t ever know us if we don’t worship him in spirit and in Truth.

My dear Brothers and Sisters let us all let our Lights Shine. Allow the Holy Spirit to baptize you so that we can all be molded into the likeness of Christ. And we can truly say the **LIGHT OF JESUS SHINES IN US.**

AMEN!