

**Introduction:**

- We have started a series entitled: It Is All About The Wedding. Last week I gave us an overview of the scripture concerning the Marriage of the Bridegroom God, Jesus and His Bride the church. We saw:
  - The scripture starts with a wedding and ends with a wedding...the marriage feast of the Lamb.
  - Jesus started His ministry at a wedding and His last public ministry was about wedding.
  - We looked at the language used throughout scripture from this Bridegroom paradigm and found an abundance of it.
  - "The Bridegroom message is about Jesus' beauty, His emotions for us, His commitments to us (to share His heart, home, throne, secrets, and beauty), and our response of wholehearted, obedient love (Jn. 14:15). The Holy Spirit uses the message of the Bridegroom God as He is establishing the first commandment in first place in the Church." Mike Bickle That is why It Is All About the Wedding!
- I heard a pastor recently share an uncomfortable experience at a wedding. Everything was going along as planned until it came time for the minister to ask that all-important question of the bride, "Do you take so-and-so to be your lawfully wedded husband?" Just then, for some unknown reason, there was an incredibly long and unbelievably awkward silence. No one, at the time, knew for sure if the bride had just zoned out for a moment, or if she was actually contemplating how she wanted to answer. I certainly hope it was the former, but not being a close friend, I never found out. **APPLICATION:** No groom deserves to have a hesitant bride on his wedding day. This incident made me think of how the Church is the Bride of Christ, and how we can be reluctant in committing ourselves to Him. And just as it would crush a groom for his bride to have second thoughts about her commitment, it must be so disappointing to Jesus when we hesitate in our commitments to Him. The good news, however, is that He doesn't turn and walk away. He waits patiently--however long and awkward our pause might be--always remaining at the altar, always waiting for us to say, "I do." *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself"* (Revelation 19:7, NLT).
- Today I want share the importance of Holy Spirit in relationship to this Marriage of God's Son to the church. He plays a huge roll. It is fascinating! Remember, it is all about the wedding. Before it all began Jesus had already said yes to the Father's plan. "I love your plan! I understand your plan! I will implement your plan! I want My eternal companion."

**I. The Gift With A Promise**

- A. Everyone likes getting a gift but there are some gifts that are far more meaningful than others.

1. IE. I have on my hands this morning three rings. One is a gold ring with a gold coin given to me by a friend who went home to Jesus. It has special significance to me. The next ring is a gift given to me by my wife. And the third ring I make mention of this morning is my wedding ring. I have worn it for 36 years. It is precious to me! Of these three rings it means the most to me because it came with a promise. "I am yours for better or worse, richer of poor, in sickness and in health. I am committed to you!"
  2. In scripture people are not engaged to one another. They are betrothed. A betrothal differs from an engagement in that it was so binding that you had to obtain a certificate of divorce to call it off. Ie. Joseph and Mary in the Christmas story. But like an engagement, a gift is given during the betrothal period to seal the promise of the groom to return and get his bride. Often that gift was a ring. Therefore the gift had great significance.
- B. The Holy Spirit is given as a gift.
1. Jesus received the Gift at His baptism. Mt 3:15-17; Jn 1:29-34;
  2. It was the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. *"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you..."* (Romans 8:11, NLT) The Holy Spirit was the gift given to Jesus to provide assurance to Him of the resurrection. The Father was basically saying to the Son, "I will give you the Spirit as the title deed to your resurrection!" I am talking about the power of the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  3. The Holy Spirit also lead Jesus...into the wilderness.
  4. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to do ministry. Also Acts 10:38
  5. This may be why Jesus was so excited about His Bride the church to receive the Holy Spirit.
- C. Jesus had the Holy Spirit and He could hardly wait to give us the Holy Spirit, as a gift, that we would cherish until Christ's appearing! This gift would do three things, remember: It Is All About The Wedding!
1. The Spirit, as a gift, would seal us as the bride of Christ and give us the assurance of the grooms return. "I want you!"
  2. The Spirit would fill the Bride so that she would be empowered by the Father to be transformed into the image of the Son. Provision to be equally yoked.
  3. The Spirit as a gift would give the Bride leadership in the earth and empower her to live as one worthy of the Bridegroom and to bring others into relationship with Him.
- ## II. Sealed With The Spirit
- A. When you are born again, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Gift of the Holy Spirit at salvation marks us or set us apart as God's!
1. *"and he has identified (sealed NKJV) us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us."* (2 Corinthians 1:22, NLT)

2. *"And when you believed in Christ, he identified you (sealed NKJV) as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago."* (Ephesians 1:13, NLT)
  3. *"And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you (sealed NKJV) as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption."* (Ephesians 4:30, NLT)
  4. The seal serves as a legally binding agreement, a guarantee. This relationship between Jesus and those who believe is legally binding.
- B. The Holy Spirit gives us the assurance that we are His!
1. *"For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children."* (Romans 8:16, NLT)
  2. *"Whoever receives His testimony has set his seal of approval to this: God is true. [That man has definitely certified, acknowledged, declared once and for all, and is himself assured that it is divine truth that God cannot lie]."* (John 3:33, AMP)
- C. We are sealed by the Gift as set aside for Christ. We are assured by the Gift that we are His. Therefore we eagerly await His appearing so that where He is we may be also! It is all about the Wedding!
1. The Father has arranged the Bride for the son.
  2. A gift is given to her by the Bridegroom. She wears it proudly showing everyone that she has been promised. She gazes at it throughout the day and remembers that her bridegroom is coming for her. The Holy Spirit is given as a gift because it is all about the wedding! Chosen as a bride!

### III. Filled With The Spirit

- A. To be filled with the Spirit is to be possessed by the Spirit of God!
1. Jesus life is a picture of a man totally possessed by the Spirit of God. He said, "If you have seen me you have seen the Father." By the power of the Spirit we are being conformed into His image.
    - a) *"Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us..."*" (Genesis 1:26, NLT)
    - b) *"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, ..."* (Romans 8:29, NLT)
    - c) *"... And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."* (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT)
    - d) *"and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,"* (Colossians 3:10, NKJV)
  2. Gal. 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit. The more we are filled with the Spirit the more we look, sound, appear like Him. *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"* (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT) God is after this

in us because He wants a Bride that is equally yoked to the Son, a bride worthy of the Son.

3. *"Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. **And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.**"* (1 John 3:2-3, NLT)
  - a) What is the eager expectation? It is the expectation that a bride has for the bridegroom!
  - b) It is the eager anticipation of the Bridegroom God coming to get His bride, so that where He is there she may be also!
  - c) It is because of this eager expectations at the bride prepares for the groom! IE. Every bride and groom I have married through the years have been working their figure! Get ready!
- B. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit not only means that we are possessed and being possessed by the Holy Spirit for character transformation. But, we are filled and being filled that we might receive power to be witnesses.
  1. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8, NLT)
    - a) Receive power to be witnesses. One who can produce evidence, and testimony of the life changing power of God.
    - b) You will be witnesses to all people because it is God's desire that none would perish. 2 Peter 3:9. You will tell everyone because of what you have experienced!T
    - c) God has chosen all to be his sons and daughters. But not everyone is saying yes to Him. He died for all but all did not receive Him. Jn 1:11&12. His own did not receive Him, but all who did would become sons of God.
  2. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to immersed in His presence!
    - a) We love the Presence!
    - b) The Presence makes all the difference!
    - c) The Presence makes it possible for people to experience God.
- C. This preparation in character and preparation in ministry is what makes us worthy to be the Bride! It prepares us to sit upon the throne with Him. Rev. 3:21.
  1. *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself"* (Revelation 19:7, NLT).
  2. God has been preparing a bride since he cover Adam and Eve with skins outside the garden.
- D. So we are given the Gift of Holy Spirit:
  1. and we are sealed, marked for the Bridegroom.

2. and we are baptized empowered for transformation and for ministry.
3. and we are thereby led by the Spirit.

#### IV. Led By The Spirit

- A. In my intimacy with Christ.
  1. He convicts of sin that we might repent from of sin and turn to Him.
  2. The Holy Spirit softens my heart and reveals Jesus to me in the place of intimacy with Him. It is there that I fall in love with Him each day.
  3. The oil of intimacy. The Holy Spirit of intimacy.
- B. In walking/living out my life in the Spirit.
  1. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* (Romans 8:1, NKJV)
  2. *"He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit."* (Romans 8:4, NLT)
  3. *"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."* (Galatians 5:25, NLT)
- C. In advancing the Kingdom of God before the marriage feast of the Lamb.
  1. 2 Cor 10:3-4 Though we live now in the flesh, we do not wage war with the flesh. Our weapon are not carnal (made by men) they are mighty and they are spiritual.
  2. Eph 6:12 we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual rulers.
  3. Mt 16:18 I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail.
  4. We have been anointed to plunder hell to populate heaven! Reinhard Bonnke.

#### Conclusion:

- A person sealed, filled, and led by the Spirit is a bride chosen by the Father and worthy of Christ.
- Last week I set the stage: It is all about the wedding. The marriage feast of the Lamb. All of this has been and is for Him.
- Today I wanted you to see that if you are born again, It is all about the wedding! I want you to know that you are betrothed to Jesus the Bridegroom God!
  - He has given you the Gift of Holy Spirit whereby:
    - You are sealed, marked for Him.
    - You are empowered to be transformed into His likeness and empower to advance the Kingdom.
    - You are now led by the Holy Spirit and therefore being trained to reign with Him and rule from His throne. Rev 3:21
- THE QUESTION IS: WHOSE ARE YOU? To whom are you betrothed this morning?
  - Don't be the hesitant bride at the altar. Give Him your all.
  - All of this life is about the wedding, the marriage feast of the Lamb. Will you be there?