

Introduction:

- Last week we started a new series on the Holy Spirit. What we looked at were scriptures that reflect joy when believers are in relationship with the Holy Spirit. We looked at the Joy of Being Filled With The Spirit. The Joy of Being Led By The Spirit, and of Making Impact In Others Lives With The Holy Spirit. You can access those notes on line: www.houseoffreedom.org, click media and notes.
- Tonight I want us to study the Holy Spirit as Encourager!
 - “*... those in charge of the service sent them this message: “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, come and give it.”*” (Acts 13:15, NLT)
 - “*The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.*” (Acts 9:31, NLT) That is our topic for tonight! With the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.
- It is common practice world wide that when a tree is planted a stake is driven into the ground near the tree. The tree is tied to the stake so that it will not be broken during times of adversity.
 - The stake transfers its strength to the weaker tree thereby empowering it to stand.
 - So the question is: What are you staked up to? And who is stake up to you?

I. What Are You Staked To?

- A. The Holy Spirit is a great encourager.

1. The word encouragement in Acts 9:31 is the Greek word ‘paraklesis’. Sometime you will hear the Holy Spirit called the ‘paraklet’ The words mean comfort, comforter, to strengthen, to encourage, or exhortation that brings comfort.
2. The word encouragement is often translated ‘proclamation’. It is a proclamation of thoughts that encourage and give strength.
3. It is defined as calling or summoning to the aid of. IE. Everywhere I have been in the world, when I see people growing tomatoes they stake them up as they grow. Why? Because healthy tomato plants require the strength of the stake to support their growing branches and most of all the plant when fruit begins to form on it. Also the wind and rain.
4. We want to make sure we are staked up by the Holy Spirit. When we are we draw strength from Him.

- B. The Holy Spirit as Advocate

1. “*But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.*” (John 16:7, NLT)
2. ““*But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.*” (John 15:26, NLT)
3. Who is the Advocate in these passages? The Holy Spirit.
 - a) Jesus wants us as believer to have the Holy Spirit living in us.
 - b) Jesus wants us staked up to Him through the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - c) Jesus wants us drawing strength from Him.
4. What is an advocate? IE. The easiest way to understand advocate is - attorney - one who speaks on another behalf or on behalf of the one accused. IE. When I was hit by a drunk driver a few years ago while on my motorcycle I hired an attorney to represent me. At first I was confused and frightened all the paper work, questions and legal jargon that I was given. When I hired an advocate, my fears went away. When the paper work came my way I passed it one to the attorney who handled it.
 - a) The Holy Spirit speaks on our behalf. When the enemy brings fear the Holy Spirit brings hope and faith.

- b) He is the encourager. Take your fears, confusion, question to Him. He will handle it for you. He is your Helper.

II. Who Is Staked To You?

- A. When we are filled with the Spirit, we expected by God to be supply strength to others. As a believer I am to be filled with the Word and filled with the Spirit. These two become a mighty stakes in my life that I am tied to.
 - 1. The Spirit and the Word are unstoppable!
 - 2. God desire us to release both the Word and Spirit in our lives to others.
 - 3. IE. Scriptural examples
 - a) Joseph (Genesis) and Daniel
 - b) Both were men were staked up by the Spirit and the Word.
 - c) They staked themselves up to others and rose to the top.
 - d) Joseph save the Empire of Egypt.
- B. How do we stake ourselves up to others?
 - 1. Let integrity guide you.
 - 2. Don't work against the darkness work in it. Some people are trying to get out of the darkness. And God wants us to shine in the darkness.
 - 3. Humbly believe that you are a blessing to those you serve or are connected to.
 - 4. Always be looking to for opportunities to be a stake that others can draw strength from.
 - 5. Let the Holy Spirit be your Helper as you go. "*The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.*" (Acts 9:31, NLT)
 - 6. Even Jesus started His ministry with the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

- People are looking to be strengthened in our world.
- They want what is real.
- If you have a word of encouragement give it.

Question for further study/application:

1. Who are you staked up to? Who supports you the most when 'the winds of life are blowing hard against you'?
2. Who counts on you for support/strength? Why/what do they draw from you?
3. When do you need encouragement the most?
4. Describe a time when you personally have drawn strength from the Holy Spirit? How did He help you?
5. Who can you be a source of encouragement to this week? How will you encourage them?