

## TURNING POINT Sermon notes June 7, 2020 (Morning meeting) Giant Opportunity Part 2

Joshua 14:10-12 (points to the promises) Caleb locked out / isolated from promises made 45 years ago but remained totally convinced he was going in to his promised land; he had seen the alternative – a generation of unbridled tongues lost to their preferences and tastes (garlics & leeks). ...but Caleb – had a different spirit; he was tenacious – he took possession for his family and future generations. Even this was a shadow of what was to come, pointing to Jesus Christ. The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ was the turning point to bring people into the promises of the New Covenant.

Read John 14:1-7 (ff) ... *I hear what you say, but ... how will we know...* natural thinking... even after a few years of walking with Jesus; seeing the dead raised, healings, miracles, provision, lives turned around radically... John 20:24-29. To Thomas, 'because you have seen, you believe; blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed.' Thomas' response: 'My Lord and my God!'

In the coming days we read in the Book of Acts, 120 locked down in an upper room, waiting for the Promise. Acts 1:4-8; there would be a turning point. Thomas (Didymus/his name means 'twin') – history infers he was a radical and bold (like Caleb) disciple fearlessly travelling and bringing the Gospel; witnessing through the countries on the way to India with thousands of converts; his death by spear. The turning point?

Without the Spirit of God, we are natural, mere men occupied by carnal (natural) behaviour; flesh-moved, preference-driven – garlics and leeks are special again but not worth being driven by. Paul, who had never walked with Jesus as did the disciples was brought to faith in a radical encounter with a great sensitivity to the Holy Spirit leading.

John 16:7 Jesus said, 'But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.' It is better, for our advantage that the Advocate would come; **He – the person of the Holy Spirit**, perhaps the most ignored person of the triune God. To have Jesus *with us* in the boat in a storm is comforting and safe, but to have Him *within us in power* is a radical shift. **He, Holy Spirit**, will lead us into all truth (John 14:26); **He, Holy Spirit**, will show us things to come (John 16:13); will always bring glory to Jesus (John 16:14). (John, chapters 14-16). Jesus, could be in one place at a time; now! By His Spirit, He is to the uttermost, everywhere.

Trying to describe God as Three in One – always falls short as Each Person has form and function. John Bevere puts forward Father as Architect, Jesus as Foreman and the Holy Spirit as the One who works it all out through us. We can look at further aspects of the Holy Spirit. We remember the book of Acts starts in an upper room and finishes with Paul in house arrest – this was no limitation to the Spirit of God. See Acts 1:5-8. 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be witnesses to Me, to the ends of the earth.' See the change in Thomas (who doubted) to faith-filled, different Spirit, went from can't to can do, saw a giant opportunity, and witnessed all the way to India. Blood-bought Thomas, clean, clear conscience Thomas.

2 Corinthians 13:14 ... the fellowship of the Holy Spirit – we have communion, partnership, intimate relationship with God through Him. James 4:5 says He yearns for us. Ephesians 4:30 tells us not to grieve Him. We have deep friendship with Him and we see the relationship birthed in the outpouring – not only a shadow or alongside but within and upon in power – an indwelled relationship; Christ – the Anointed 'One' has now become many anointed ones – as He is, in this world, so are we (1 John 4:17). The Holy Spirit has the transforming power to change us from being led by our natural/preferences to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. **He, Holy Spirit**, glorifies Jesus; He awakens the message; He convicts of sin; He brings conversion and deals with those things that (previously) stopped entry to the promised land; He comforts;

He is Friend, He teaches, He refines, He fires us. He draws us and empowers us to glorify Jesus, the turning point for all humanity.

**Turning Point** (PM meeting) Joshua 14:10-12. Before a significant move, there is a shaking, a crossing over, a shift of belief systems. Consider Peter, prior to Acts 1 (amazingly bold and outspoken at times but was also at times ashamed of and denied Christ; we saw a falling away, despondence, disillusionment, preferences driving and not just Peter). See Acts 1:4-8. They were to wait... and in Acts 2 we see Peter stand up with a different spirit; preaching perhaps to those before whom he had previously denied Christ. See 1 Peter 1:6-7; proven, genuine faith, refined by fire like pure gold; history infers he died in Rome after fearlessly preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom; crucified by Nero. What had happened? Jesus said, it was for Peter's, and our, benefit that He go away; then He could send the Holy Spirit – to all 'flesh'. (John 16:7) – **He**, the Person, Counsellor, Comforter... came in power: Acts 2:3, 14. Tongues of fire, refining fire.

There are many pictures describing Holy Spirit.

- living water; as a river that can't be crossed, a never-ending supply poured out
- like a Dove, in the natural they are a mate for life, gentle, cautious where they perch (how carefully we would walk mindful of a dove on our shoulder)
- as wind, can't see but can see the power/force demonstrated
- as fire; refining, purifying, warming

Some would speak of Him as a force and although He manifests in power, He is a Person, the third Person of the Godhead. Beyond a power point to plug in to, He is a Person we can know, have relationship with. He speaks, teaches, comforts, consoles, encourages, guides, leads, gifts, graces... He has emotion – He can be grieved; He can be resisted; He can be lied to. 2 Corinthians 13:14 ... 'the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit' – far from social distancing, He indwells – Friend for Life; flowing through us but desires we flow with Him. Ezekiel 47 – there is a river from God, an infilling.

Can we recall how precious was this infilling in the beginning. He yearns for our full attention. He does not want to ride in the back seat or even the front seat alongside; He would prefer His hands on the steering wheel of our lives. We can be influenced by Him, but there is so much more.

When He comes, He changes our language. The five things that stopped the ancients going into the Promised Land are described in 1 Corinthians 10:6-10; the last of which was their grumbling.

We are called to bless; to impart grace to the hearer. Ephesians 4:29. Let no corrupt language come out of your mouth... the verse that follows immediately after is 'and do not grieve the Holy Spirit' ...

**He** does not control to manipulate – He leads (what to watch, what not to; what to hear what not too); He shows us things to come – He empowers from the inside out, for His will (not ours) to invade this world with the Gospel of the Kingdom (the end will not come until this is accomplished). His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness (for a godly knowledge of Him).

Flesh and blood didn't reveal to Peter who Christ is (Matthew 16:18) – Peter had been influenced by the Spirit of God at times; we see a different Peter once baptised in the Holy Spirit 'For those who are **led** by the Spirit, these are the children of God.' Romans 8:15.

**Communion:** Emblems – represent the body and blood Christ. Jesus said, 'as often as you do this, remember Me' There are some things that go up before God as a memorial. This is one, sharing communion

today. A common memorial for us is a rainbow. It also is a memorial for God – ‘when the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature – that flood will never again destroy all flesh (Genesis 9)

Sharing ‘communion’ is a covenant sign. In Luke 22:20, at the last meal He shared with the disciples before the Cross “this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood” So when Jesus, said or says ‘remember Me’ – as well as us recalling who He is and what He has done, we are bringing before God, Jesus’ death on the Cross (not a re-sacrifice, but a declaration of His death until He comes)

We started by saying these emblems represent the body and blood of Christ. If we take this a bit wider, as we eat and drink together in the presence of God today – we are re (again) presenting – before God – in a tangible way; as sign of Christ’s death – reminding God of all the promises He has made to us, that the death of Christ made available to us, by His death and through Him. ‘Every promise’

Isaiah 43:25-26: *“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins. <sup>26</sup>Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.”*

It is critical for us to remember (or call to mind) that God has forgiven us (blotted out our transgressions) – He chooses not to remember them. When we share communion, we are declaring – ‘Father, through Jesus: You have forgiven me, You have made me new, given me a new heart, You have removed my sin so far away from me – as the east is from the west, You’ve made me Your child, You’ve removed everything contrary to me, You dealt with my sin and the power of sin, You dealt with the oppressor, Your banner over me is love, You have brought me into Your presence, You have come to dwell in me, You have given me everything I need for life and godliness, You have justified me and set me apart for Yourself and Your purposes.’ And more! Isaiah 62:6 tells us not to be silent about these things. Sharing ‘communion’ is an act of faith. 1 Corinthians 11:26: “FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THE CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD’S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES”

We come around this table and God’s promises are on it. We can use this time to receive forgiveness. We can use this time to know that this is a sign to God – a corporate sign – a corporate signal to God – who sees it and remembers – us reminding God of what He promised, positions us to received anew. If we forget God, or tire of Him, forget what He has done, we are effectively limited by what we can receive. God remember His promise to Moses and created the Passover – He came to act on Moses’ behalf. God has written His law on our hearts; He has shed His love abroad in our hearts. He has cleansed our hearts by His blood and through His body given, we have fellowship with Him and each other.

GIVING: There are a couple of examples in the New Testament where something about two gifts established a permanent remembrance – went up as a memorial before God. Firstly, the woman in Mark 14:8-9. Jesus said this: “She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached, throughout the whole world, what this woman did will also be spoken of as a memorial to her.” She did what she could to bless Jesus, to bless others. Secondly, a roman soldier, Cornelius – his life and generosity drew a strong response from God. The chapter speaks of Cornelius fearing God, giving alms generously and praying always: an angel came to him and said: Acts 10:4: “Your prayers and your alms have come up as a memorial before God” Beautiful chapter. God sent him to Peter with those words and Peter was illumined that God shows no partiality. He started preaching to gentiles and the Holy Spirit fell as the Word and the gospel was spoken. Sincere giving gets God’s attention. Cornelius gave to the poor and needy around him. Your giving goes far in this House and a memorial is being built as our attitudes respond to His grace upon us.