

Radiant Church, October 11, 2020
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The Church We Can Be Part 7

Acts 20:36 *And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.*

1 Corinthians 12:3b *...and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit*
Not just mouthing the words. A child, a parrot, Siri or Alexa can do that
Paul means:

The gospel is true
The gospel is true for me
I've been loved by God
I am His and He is mine
I've decided to follow Jesus; no turning back

Salvation for anyone doesn't happen without the work of the Spirit

John 15:5 *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Gospel work requires the presence and power of the Spirit

Moses knew this. Right on the heels of the peoples' rebellion with the golden calf, when the Lord told him to continue leading the people to the Promised Land...

Exodus 33:15-16 *And he said to him, 'If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?'*

David knew this. Right on the heels of his own sin with Bathsheba against Uriah

Psalm 51:11 *Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

After everything Paul had just said to the Ephesian church elders, it would seem natural that they immediately start planning and strategizing.

Cast vision, people to meet, money to raise, leaders to train, GC's to get started up, kids ministry curriculum to purchase, update the website, schedule worship leaders for each Sunday, and find us a place to meet.

Acts 20:36 *And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.*

This happens in a very public place. Not a quiet, tranquil holiday beach setting, but at a busy sea port.

And what motivated them instinctually to drop and pray?

Their own neediness

“Jesus, you’ve got to be with us by your Spirit. We can’t do a thing Paul just said on our own, without You!”

Their praying together is a gospel act. They know what is at stake, what it will take, and how inadequate apart from the Spirit they are.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is like a new set of glasses that every believer wears and through which he/she looks at life.

The gospel is the means by which you and I understand and make sense of life.

Romans 8:11 *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

Our dependence on the Holy Spirit is supposed to foster humility in us.

So often, we think we need to be the point guard who drops the winning shot in the last second. Instead, we should see ourselves as the scrubs at the end of the bench, waving a towel while cheering on the work of the Spirit.

Our dependence on the Holy Spirit is supposed to foster patience in us.

Our dependence on the Holy Spirit is supposed to also foster prayerful expectancy in us.

We have a Father who loves us

We have a Mediator who carries our prayers to Him

We have a Spirit who can turn our dead efforts into gospel life

What confidence can we have that our God hears, and wants to answer our prayers?

What should we be praying over, that we are not praying over right now?

Humility

Dependency

Awareness and inspection of our own individual sin

Protection

Restoration

All of these prayers bring joy to our Father, because He wants His children to evidence His heart in these ways

Matthew 28:16-20 *Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I AM with you always, to the end of the age.*

Authority - authority over all people and things, circumstances and nations, history and future

I AM - the very presence of God

Jesus is saying, "Know that wherever you go, the I AM will be with you, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the one on whom all the covenant promises rest, the one who is the same yesterday, today and forever, the one who is the Alpha and Omega. I am the I AM, and I would never s=think of sending you without going with you in power, glory, wisdom and grace."

The confidence Jesus had in these eleven disciples was not based on what they knew or would do, but in Who He was, and what He would do

So we must pray that Radiant Church Juneau will not trust in ourselves, but trust in our Lord who has called us to be the church, a family of servant missionaries learning to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.