

IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 4:1-7

Text: Zechariah 4:6

- Introduction: THE REAL WORK OF GOD IS SUPERNATURAL, NOT NATURAL.
 - It is not by might, nor by power of muscle.
 - It is not by might, nor by power of mentality.
 - It is not by might, nor by power of money.
- We have got to stop thinking that God's work is to be carried about by natural means.
 - I believe that God's business is the most important business in the world.
 - I also believe that all things in our churches should be done decently and in order.
 - However, some churches are run exactly like one of this world's businesses.
 - If God's Holy Spirit were to leave those churches entirely, they would continue to run as normal, without anyone observing a difference.
 - Let us remind ourselves today that we must depend on the power of the Holy Ghost to do the work of God! For instance:
- I. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT THE SINNER IS EXPOSED
- John 16:8-11
 - A. His pollution is exposed - "of sin"
 - B. His problem is exposed - "of righteousness"
 - C. His penalty is exposed - "of judgment"
- II. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT THE SAVIOR IS EXALTED
- John 16:14
 - A. In our minds
 - If we are full of the Holy Ghost, we will say of the Lord Jesus Christ, as did John the Baptist, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

- B. In our manner
 - We should live in such a way as to best glorify CHRIST (Matt. 5:16).
 - We should talk in such a way as to best magnify JESUS (Acts 4:13).
- C. In our message
 - I don't preach a "plan of salvation." I preach the MAN of salvation!
 - God's Spirit moves us to preach CHRIST, to the lost, not the Baptist church!
 - Philip preached CHRIST to the city of Samaria (Acts 8:5).
 - He preached JESUS to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:35).
 - Saul, later called Paul, preached CHRIST in the synagogues as soon as he was saved (Acts 9:20).
 - Paul preached JESUS to the heathen at Athens (Acts 17:18).
 - We preach the gospel of CHRIST (Rom. 1:16).
 - It is the substitutionary death of CHRIST!
 - It is the burial of CHRIST!
 - It is the resurrection of CHRIST that we preach! (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
- III. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT SALVATION IS ETERNAL
- 2 Corinthians 1:22
- Ephesians 1:13
- Ephesians 4:30
 - A. The Spirit of God saves us
 - We call this regeneration.
 - It is the new birth.
 - Before a person is saved, he has a dead spirit. He is dead in trespasses and sins.
 - B. The Spirit of God submerges us
 - He baptizes us into Christ - 1 Cor. 12:13.
 - C. The Spirit of God seals us
 - It is the "guarantee" of our salvation.
 - The seal is the power of preservation.

- D. The Spirit of God stays with us - John 14:16
- IV. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT SERVICE IS EMPOWERED
- Ephesians 3:16
 - A. He helps us to find and do the will of God
 - Baptism
 - Church membership
 - Work in church
 - Schooling, training
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - B. He helps us do the work of God
 - He gives gifts for the ministry of every believer.
 - C. He helps us obtain the wisdom of God
 - You don't have the sense to know how to serve God.
 - The Holy Spirit can make you FULLY equipped to do the work of God!
- V. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT THE SAINTS ARE AN ENTITY
- Ephesians 4:3
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - A. There is one body, though incomes vary
 - Wealthy and poor believers should be able to attend the same church, sit on the same pews, and have fellowship with each other.
 - B. There is one body, though ideas vary
 - People have different ideas about technicalities of doctrine, and about local church administration.
 - The Holy Ghost will help believers to not only believe the same, but have the same charity toward one another, and the same ultimate goals.
 - C. There is one body, though interests vary
- VI. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT THE SCRIPTURES ARE EXPLAINED
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-14
 - A. The Spirit composed the Bible

- B. The Spirit comprehends the Bible
- C. The Spirit clarifies the Bible
- VII. IT IS BY GOD'S SPIRIT THAT SORROW IS ERASED
- John 14:16
 - A. His presence brings comfort
 - B. His peace brings comfort
 - This is the fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22
 - C. His promises bring comfort
 - The promise of salvation
 - The promise of security
 - The promise of strength
 - The promise of the Second Coming