

The Glorious Church

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Sermon Audio file

Newspaper stories of old couples put in separate care home. Furore, someone sorts it out.
“Let no man separate”

Word and Spirit shouldn't be split apart either

Word - believe that the Scriptures are the inspired of God, without error in their original writing, the complete revelation of God's will for salvation and our final authority for Christian faith and life.

Spirit - ministry of the Spirit in the gifts and signs and wonders, continues to be as broad, tangible and powerful among believers today as it was in the early church.

Conservative evangelical churches would say they have the balance of Word and Spirit right.

Chandelier swinging charismatic churches would say they have the balance of Word and Spirit right too.

Both would probably say the other doesn't!

When a church describes itself as Word and Spirit they are declaring that they at least are aiming to get the balance right - Not too fluffy and not too stuffy! 50:50

Nooooo!

Jesus is 100% God, 100% Man. Has to be - not completely God then his death would be just for himself. Not completely man and he wouldn't have been the perfect substitute.

Just like Jesus is 100% God and 100% Man - His ministry was 100% Word and 100% Spirit. Not a compromising balance of not too fluffy and not too stuffy!

As a church we aim to be, are 100% Word and 100% Spirit

100% serious about the Bible, teaching and preaching and under its authority.

100% welcoming the Spirit and what He is and does – gifts, miracles, signs and wonders, body ministry.

Look at Jesus in Luke 4:1-14

V1 Jesus is full of the Spirit and led by the Spirit.

Luke repeated the work of the Spirit, because he wants us to take note of it.

The whole 40 days for him are a battle of temptation at the end of which Luke tells us he is hungry!

Then 3 temptations that represent them all are listed. As NT Wright puts it “Jesus is tempted concerning food, concerning dominion and to defy death”. They are representation of the world the flesh and the devil. They are temptations to be the Messiah not the way he was ordained and anointed to be.

These three temptations have been traditionally known as the flesh, the world, and the devil. Jesus has fasted for 40 days and is tempted to turn stones into bread. This is the temptation of the flesh. He is tempted to throw himself off the Temple so that the angels can come to save him. This is the temptation of the world. He is brought up high and tempted with the power and glory of having all the kingdoms of the world if he worships the devil.

With each one Jesus doesn't argue – he quotes the Word – he quotes scriptures from when Israel was in the wilderness.

Jesus is 100% Word guy – he doesn't here say I banish you in the power of the Spirit! He applies Scripture.

100% Word, 100% Spirit in the way He does life and ministry!

The we get to 14 where we find Jesus returns in the power of the Spirit. Goes to the synagogue, where He reads the Word – Quoting Isaiah 61 – the first coming bits which talk about the anointing of the Spirit on his ministry and tells everyone – I'm fulfilling this!!!

Jesus uses the Word to tell us the Spirit has anointed him – his ministry is 100% Word and 100% Spirit!

If you truly love the word, you see how much of it tells us about the Spirit in and through us. If you don't believe the Spirit gives gifts and power and signs and wonders today, you consign much of the New Testament as of historical interest but not much as now. Much of the New Testament would not “thoroughly equip us for every good work” – 2 Tim 3:16-17

If you love the word, you must welcome the Spirit!

Smith Wigglesworth prophesied in 1947 "During the next few decades there will be two distinct moves of the Holy Spirit across the church in Great Britain. The first move will affect every church that is open to receive it and will be characterized by a restoration of the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit. [We have seen this, haven't we?] The second move of the Holy Spirit will result in people leaving historic churches and planting new churches. [And we have now seen this, too: Vineyard Church, New Frontiers etc. etc.] In the duration of each of these moves, the people who are involved will say "This is the great revival." But the Lord says, "No, neither is this the great revival but both are steps towards it." When the new church phase is on the wane, there will be evidenced in the churches something that has not been seen before: a coming together of those with an emphasis on the Word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit. When the Word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest movement of the Holy Spirit that the nation, and indeed the world, has ever seen. It will mark the beginning of a revival that will eclipse anything that has been witnessed within these shores, even the Wesleyan and the Welsh revivals of former years. The outpouring of God's Spirit will flow over from the UK to the mainland of Europe, and from there will begin a missionary move to the ends of the earth."

Now that excites me! Interestingly Word and Spirit folks are coming together freshly in this season.

Michael Reeves - about as conservative evangelical as they come

Mike Pilavachi - a wonderful charismatic

Have become friends with our Mike Betts and been meeting regularly. They'll be doing a Word and Spirit together conference next year. Come on!

Apply this

If you want to love God, follow Jesus

Love the Word - our final authority - read it, study it, apply it

Welcome the Spirit - eagerly desire the gifts - works, prophecy, signs and wonders and so on.