

New Kingdom / New Spirit (7/27)

Part of the newness of the New Kingdom involves the presence of a new spirit. This is the Spirit of God given to the followers of God. This new spirit creates new possibilities for those in Christ. The presence of the Spirit in the New Kingdom also signals a change in the means to pursue righteousness. The New Kingdom will not be like the old kingdom, nor will it be like any other society, culture, organization, or school. This New Kingdom will not rely upon principles or laws. The participants in this New Kingdom will be guided and powered by nothing less than God's Holy Spirit.

- Ezekiel 36:24f says, "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a **new heart and put a new spirit** in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

The Other Counselor (John 14 & 16)

John 14:15f - "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. . . . ²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- Jesus taught the disciples the "ways of God" but when He leaves "another counselor" will fulfill the need for teaching and guidance in the ways of God. In this passage there seems to be a love + guidance model for life. While Jesus is on earth He has provided the guidance component, once he leaves, the Counselor will guide those that love God. The "other counselor" spoken of here in John is the same as the "new spirit" of Ezekiel, the spirit that moves you to follow God's will.

John 16:5-16 - ⁵ "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. ⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, **the Counselor** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When **he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:** ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. ¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. ¹⁶ "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

- The new Spirit plays a role in convicting the world of the truth of Jesus ministry. His resurrection with demonstrate their sin for not accepting him, His resurrection and ascension will demonstrate God's justice/ righteousness, and His resurrection will prove that Satan and Death have been conquered. In the second half of the section it becomes clear that the Counselor is once again described as providing guidance.

The Spirit of Adoption and Righteousness

Galatians 4:4f - ⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "**Abba, Father.**" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 5:16f - ¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

- In Galatians the Spirit of the new covenant is the mark of adoption into the family of God and also the replacement for the law as the definition of righteousness or righteous living. Notice how the Spirit opposes what the flesh desires leading to changed behavior.

The New Spirit is the fulfillment of the law and the power to conquer sin

Rom 8:1-9 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh [sinful nature], God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in flesh [sinful man], ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh [sinful nature] but according to the Spirit.

⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind set on the flesh [of sinful man] is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷ the mind set on the flesh [sinful mind] is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those controlled by the flesh [sinful nature] cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the flesh [sinful nature] but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- Here the Spirit, the New Spirit of the New Covenant is closely connected to the function of the law. The Spirit enables the follower to fulfill the [intent] of the Law, to conquer sin in their life. The Spirit is also associated with the mark of adoption just as it was in Galatians.

Discussion

- After looking at the “New Spirit” what is different about the New Covenant as compared to the old Covenant?
- How does the New Heart and New Spirit work together to fulfill God's purposes for a people?
- Based on these passages how would a person live a righteous life before God in the new covenant?
- What about this picture of God's work “moves you to obey?”
- What is the difference between thinking “I should do x, y, z” and “I want to do x, y, z?”