

DREAMS AND VISIONS

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Acts 2:14-21

1. In writing to the Corinthians Paul asked, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **For you have been bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2. Over 2000 years ago Jesus paid the price of our redemption.

1 Peter 1:17-19

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 **but (you were redeemed) with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**

3. We read why Jesus redeemed us in Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us** from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Jesus:

- a. Brought salvation.
- b. Instructed us how to live in this present life.
- c. Gave us a sure hope related to His return and our eternity with Him.
- d. Gave Himself to cancel our sin debt.
- e. Gave Himself to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who would zealously glorify God through good deeds by being salt and light.

4. We are to carry on what Jesus began during His earthly ministry.

5. His ministry took place throughout Judea and Galilee.

6. Sometimes in the Temple courts, sometimes in the synagogues, sometimes in people's homes, and all the time, wherever He happened to be, regardless of what activity He was involved in.

7. As temples of the Holy Spirit you are I are actually to be God's tabernacles; moving about this world, manifesting the life of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming His truth and demonstrating His love.

8. At some point in church history this concept has been lost, and most professing Christians see ministry as something they do in and through the ministry of their local church.

9. The church has been most effective when churches were equipping and sending centers rather than centers for ministry.

10. We need to get back to God's original intent for the local church.

11. Note the implications of Joel's prophecy as it relates to Jesus' followers.

I. All of God's people would be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

A. Paul declared that it was the Holy Spirit's presence that defined who was and who was not a believer.

1. "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." Romans 8:9

2. "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God."
Romans 8:14

B. In Ephesians 5:18 Paul commanded, "Do not get drunk with wine, for this is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."

C. In Galatians 5 Paul pointed out that those who belong to Christ are to live by the Spirit, walk by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

D. Peter pointed out in Acts 2:38-39 that the promise of the Holy Spirit's indwelling and anointing is for everyone that God calls to Himself.

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

E. I believe that the Holy Spirit is so grieved today that, even though we are sealed by His presence, we are not experiencing the full manifestation of His ministry in our lives because we have lost sight of why we are here.

II. All of God's people would have a vision for ministry.

A. We are the called of God, and that means "designated and set apart by an action of God to some special sphere and manner of being and of consequent activity." William Newell

B. Notice that Joel declared that God would pour out His Spirit on all segments of the church: sons, daughters, men, women, young and old.

C. He said that young men would see visions and old men would dream dreams.

D. Do you have a personal vision and understanding of what God wants to accomplish in and through your life?

E. Do you dream and meditate on the plans God may have for you?

F. We often quote portions of Scripture while ignoring the implications of what is said before and after. Eph 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

G. There is no indication that God's plans and purposes for our lives end just because we turn sixty-five, experience health problems, have a demanding job, have a limited income, or feel incompetent. Note Paul's attitude recorded in Philippians 1:21-26.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again."

III. All of God's people would be involved in meaningful ministry.

A. Joel said, "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...even upon My bondslaves, both men and women, I will pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy." (Be spiritually empowered to speak forth the word of God.)

B. Paul pointed out that the church would be caused to grow when each member was equipped for ministry and consequently fulfilled his or her role in the church.

Eph 4:11-16

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;** 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, **even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**

NOTE: Each individual part has a part to play in the growth of the body of Christ.

C. In teaching on spiritual gifts and the nature of the church Paul stated the following.

1 Cor 12:4-7

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to **each one** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (benefit of others).

APPLICATION

1. What were your expectations and hopes when you came to church today?
2. Did you pray about anything special prior to coming?
3. How have you cooperated with God this week?
4. What opportunities did God give you to be His instrument in the life of another person since last Sunday?
5. As followers of Jesus Christ we should be prayerfully expectant.
6. Jesus had commanded the Apostles not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, and then said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."
7. They waited and prayed for ten days, but I doubt that they fully expected what happened to happen.
8. The Day of Pentecost held many surprises for these obedient men of God, and you and I can see God work in ways that exceed our expectations. Ephesians 3:20-21
"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."
9. Those who prayerfully cooperate with God can live expectant lives.