

In the Spirit and In Power

(Rom 1:7-15)

Read introduction: Rom 1:1-15

- Dealing with things Paul says about himself
- Currently with what he says about his service
- I. Paul's ministry
 - A) "In service"
 - B) "In spirit"
 - C) "In gospel"
 - D) "In power"
- II. Rom 1:11- Paul was conscience of the power working in his ministry
 - A) Col 1:28-29- "His working which worketh in me mightily"
 - 1. 1 Cor 2:4- "In demonstration of the Spirit and in power"
 - i. This isn't simply a reference to signs and wonders
 - ii. Example of revival, and the way Whitefield, Rowland, Harris, Edwards and others were acutely aware of the Spirit's power
 - a) The crowds were aware also
 - iii. Anyone who has been called of God to preach knows something of this power, even when in very limited outpourings
 - 2. 1 Thess 1:5- Not in word only, but in power and the Holy Ghost and "much assurance"
 - 3. 1 Cor 4:18-21- "I will know not the speech of them, but the power"
 - 4. 2 Cor 10:3- Power that "pulls down strongholds"
 - i. There is a similar power in some of those that preach by another spirit
 - a) Cult leaders, and teachers of powerful heresy
 - ii. There are many that teach, and many times "called" preachers teach, but it simply falls flat, and if you preach, you will know that as well
 - a) Luke 24:49- Apostles had to wait for the power
 - 1) Howell Harris called this the "authority," and he would pray and pray for it after he had experienced it
 - 2) Story of minister the girl went to fetch when he was late, and heard him speaking to someone, "I will not go unless you go with me"
 - b) Jer 23:29- My word like a hammer that breaks in pieces
 - 1) Revival does this and it is known publicly
 - 2) Lady speaking about MLJ and the Spirit leading him, and then sometimes, she said, "oh, it was sad, he was all alone tonight"
 - 3) Today, this is hardly acknowledged among churches

(a) A man can speak doctrinally, accurately, eloquently, and even academically, and it amount to nothing in the service of the Lord

(b) We can teach, but we cannot be “witnesses” without the Holy Spirit testifying with us

(1) By 2 or 3 witnesses (man needs God’s Spirit and His word to witness)

III. Rom 1:11- Paul is aware that he has the power within him to impart this spiritual gift

A) What does he mean by this phrase?

1. Does he mean he wants to impart the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands, as in Acts 19 and other places?
 - i. The apostles did have this power, but men falsely claim it today
 - ii. These Romans are already saved and had been made partakers of the Holy Spirit
 - a) Rom 8:9- If any man hath not the Spirit, he is not in Christ
2. Does he mean he wants to impart some of the spiritual gifts of 1 Cor 12?
 - i. 1 Cor 12:1-11- It is the Holy Spirit that administers these gifts as He will
 - a) Paul nor any other apostle ever claimed this power, but men do today
 - b) The spiritual gifts were not “strengthening” gifts, but elementary aids that were to be done away “in love”
 - 1) “Strengthen” = “perfect” and “that which is perfect or perfecting is love
 - c) The Corinthians weren’t strengthened by the gifts, but rather divided and called “babes”
 - d) The spiritual gifts were a kind of “evidence,” they did not establish
 - 1) 1 Cor 3:1-2- Babes need milk to be “strengthened”
 - 2) 1 Pet 2:2- Desire the milk of the word to grow by

B) “Establish”- to build up, to edify, to strengthen, to make to stand firm

1. Paul seems to be saying “I want to come do in person, elaborately, what I am doing in the epistle by summary”
 - i. Paul taught daily at Ephesus for 1 ½ years, expounding and elaborating upon all these great gospel truths
 - ii. Like a microscope looks deeper and deeper with no end in sight, so is the word of God
 - a) MLJ statement about his friend bragging how Paul would be amazed at how much the preacher had drawn from his epistle
2. Acts 20:32- Word of God able to build you up
 - i. John 17:17- Sanctify them thru Thy truth
 - ii. Eph 5:26-27- Washing of water by the word

- iii. 2 Cor 4:16- Inner man renewed day by day
- 3. 2 Pet 3:15-16- The “unlearned” are “unstable” (not established)
 - i. Eph 4:14-16- Be no more children tossed to and fro
 - a) The truth of God’s word is the answer to all of our problems, and the Holy Spirit is the Teacher
 - b) Spiritual discernment is through “establishment” in the scriptures by the Spirit
 - 1) This can’t happen by the Spirit alone or the word alone
 - 2) This can’t be “known” but by learning the doctrine and then experiencing it
 - (a) Eph 3:14-21- Paul prayer for all saints