



Sunday, November 15, 2009: The Word of Power

Scripture: Judges 13:1-6, 16:15-31

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. As in Amos, the root cause of problems is idolatry.
2. Samson embodies a covenant relationship with God.
3. He is strong when faithful to God, but weak when faithless.
4. The Word of God carries power; when it is acted on in faith, there is an effectiveness and blessing released by the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. We tend to put biblical figures on a plain above ourselves, categorizing their lives of faith and blessing as unattainable.
6. God brings fruitfulness from barrenness in accordance to His covenant promises: cf. Isaac, Samuel, John the Baptist.
7. Individuals and minorities who are called by God are capable of bringing about movements of national transformation.
8. Though we are not Nazarites proper, we are all set apart in covenant with God for sanctification in holiness.
9. Samson's set-apart status led him to action for God's people.
10. Samson's parents responded in faith to the Angel's message, seeking further God's instruction for Samson's life.
11. The Word of God came with power through the Angel, whose name was Wonderful. Cf. Isaiah 9:6. The Angel was probably the pre-incarnate Christ.
12. In the revelation of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, today we have a word that is more sure than this appearance of the Angel of the Lord.
13. We will never be powerful and effective as God's children unless the Spirit of God stirs in us.
14. The Holy Spirit is always connected to the Word. As we're sensitive listening to the Word, the Holy Spirit empowers us.
15. Samson was as weak as a kitten without the Spirit of God coming upon him. Those whom God calls, He equips.
16. Samson's carnality led him to abandon God's Word.
17. The Lord then left Samson and he was powerless.
18. When we fail to continue in God's Word we are weak.
19. Judges 16:30. The sign of the covenant--hair growth-- would not have made Samson strong by itself. Samson called on God and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.
20. As God's people, we need to have faith in God's purposes for righteous action in our time.
21. God calls us to a Kingdom purpose. We're called to godly action.
22. We're sanctified to a purpose: the deliverance of God's people and the salvation of all those whom God has called.
23. We face the temptation to idolatry all of the time, so we must remain strong in God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Application Questions:

1. What barren areas of our lives may God be calling us to use for fruitfulness for His Kingdom?
2. Do I have a teachable attitude like Samson's parents to seek God's instruction for the callings He presents in my life?
3. When God blesses us in our callings, do we allow our pride to lead us to stubbornness and covenant unfaithfulness?
4. What areas in my life may be my areas of temptation, leading me away from God's word?
5. In what ways has our faithlessness to God made us weak?
6. Am I coming to Christ as Lord, not only Saviour? Am I bending my back in faith as His servant?
7. How am I feeding on God's Word to receive His empowerment?
8. Read Hebrews 11 and identify the types of righteous actions God called His people to.
9. How can we be among the people of faith of Hebrews 11?