



God's Guarantee – Jesus' Return and the Holy Spirit

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Introduction:

This morning we finish our series on God's guarantee. God has guaranteed some incredible things. If we humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, turn from our wicked ways, He will hear our prayer, forgive our sin, and heal our land. He has guaranteed that if we honor Him by bringing the whole tithe into the storehouse, He will pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to hold it all. He has guaranteed us life, not only here but in heaven as well. If we love the Lord, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him, He has promised an inheritance, not only to us but to the generation that follows us as well.

This morning we are going to look at God's guarantee about Christ's returning, and the power available to us through the Holy Spirit.

God in His word has promised that Jesus will return, and also that the Holy Spirit would be given. What He has promised will be backed up.

I. The guarantee we have that Christ will come back

- **Signs – Matthew 24:30-31**

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

When you read the 24th chapter of Matthew, in Jesus' own words we have an account of what will be happening just before He comes back.

There will be deception – false prophets and false Christs. There will be earthquakes, and wars, famines, and many disastrous things happening. There will be unprecedented persecution. Wickedness will increase; love of many will grow cold. The gospel

will be preached to the entire world and then the end will come. Stars will fall from heaven, and the sun will become darkened and moon will not give her light.

Then Jesus will come to gather His elect from one end of heaven to the other.

- **His own word – John 14:3**

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

In Jesus' own words He expressed to His disciples, I am going to prepare a place for you. This promise or guarantee was made to those who were His disciples. If you are not a disciple, a follower, one who has a relationship with Christ, you can be. You should make that decision for Christ to bring you into relationship with Him. Then you will be sure of a place in God's kingdom.

- **Prophecy – 1 Thes. 4:16-18**

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

What is our responsibility? It is to be ready and watching. We need to keep filled with the Holy Spirit (remember the 10 virgins), to renew our minds with God’s word, to pray continually and to love one another as He loves us.

2 Peter 3:14

“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”

In the context this is written, we read that everything around us that we see will be destroyed, but Christ has promised a new heaven and new earth. In keeping with that promise, we are challenged to live a pure life.

The part we play in being ready has everything to do with our will, our openness to God’s word and the Holy Spirit. Some may be sitting here saying, Pastor, I can’t live a pure life. We live in an impure world and I just can’t live that way. You can’t do it in your own strength, but through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, you can do that.

In God’s word we find another guarantee that helps us live the lifestyle of purity I’m talking about. This guarantee involves the person of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to fill us, to empower us, to change us. Don’t deny the power that is available to you. Don’t say “I can’t.” God’s word teaches us that through Christ we can do all things as He strengthens us.

So where do you need strength? Do you need strength to resist temptation? Do you need strength to go on? Do you need strength to witness? Do you need strength to show God’s love? Do you need strength to understand and apply God’s word? Do

you need strength to be at peace with God and others?

II. The guarantee we have about the power and person of the Holy Spirit

- **Promise Jesus left us – John 16:7**

“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.”

Jesus guaranteed that when He left the disciples, He would send the Holy Spirit in His place.

Why was it important for the Holy Spirit to be sent?

The Lord had walked with these men for 3 ½ years. The purpose, for which He chose them, was to take the gospel to the whole earth after His death and resurrection. He mentored them, corrected them, and taught them by example. He answered their questions. NOW, suddenly He was going to be gone and they would be left with His teachings. They were going to face death, persecution, trials, temptations, and Jesus wanted to be with them, but His mission in the flesh was done. So He promised them that when He arrived in the throne room of heaven, as high priest, with the blood of His sacrifice, and the marks of His mission, He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to comfort and be with them.

John 14:16 -18 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- 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. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

There are many reasons why Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to us, but here are some of them.

- to comfort
- to instruct
- to remind
- to empower
- to enable a more effective witness

John 14:26 “ 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.”

After salvation the most transforming things that happen to us spiritually are through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are guaranteed to have significant changes in our lives when we receive the person and power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- **History – Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:1-4**

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

- **Evidence of a changed life – Peter**

Look at Peter who stood up on the day of Pentecost, just a few weeks before and denied that he even knew Christ. Now after the power of the Holy Spirit had filled him and the other 119 that were gathered in the upper room, there was tremendous boldness in declaring the truth about Jesus.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

- **Ask**

Luke 11:9-13

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you;

Conclusion:

There are many guarantees that God has left us that get fulfilled when we simply do our part in obedience. As we move through 2005 I encourage you to personally look for the guarantees in God’s word, and do your part to see those guarantees fulfilled.

seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

- **Have someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit lay hands on you and pray with you.**

Acts 8:17-19

“Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, ‘Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

- **Believe that God will give you what He has promised**

At times we fail to receive from God what He wants to give us or what we would like of Him, because our faith is lacking. Everything that happens to us spiritually happens because of faith. That includes healing, salvation, the filling of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sin, and answered prayer.

If we don’t believe He is listening or will respond to our need and request, then James tells us we will not receive anything from the Lord.