

The Holy Spirit and the Apostles

Introduction:

- A. We must note to whom Scripture is speaking. - e.g., Genesis 6:14
- B. Many “Holy Spirit passages” were intended for the apostles alone.
- C. What was the mission and work of the Holy Spirit through the apostles?

I. What are “apostles”?

- A. definition of *apostolos* (78 NT occurrences) “a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders” (**SeedMaster** computer Bible program, quoting **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament**)
- B. Jesus is God’s apostle to the world. - Hebrews 3:1
- C. Jesus selected 12 to be His apostles to Israel (Limited Commission). - Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 10:1-7
- D. Eleven of these, plus Matthias, He later sent as His apostles to the world (Great Commission). - Mark 16:14-16; Acts 1:15-26
 - 1. They were eye-witnesses of the raised Lord. - Acts 1:21-22; 10:36-42; 1 Corinthians 9:1
 - 2. They were His ambassadors to deliver with authority His will to the world. - 2 Corinthians 5:20; 2 Peter 3:1-2; Galatians 1:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 - 3. He equipped them with authoritative signs as the badge of their office. - 2 Corinthians 12:12
 - 4. Paul was the last of the apostles of Christ. - 1 Corinthians 15:8-10
- E. Other men besides the apostles of Christ were apostles of the churches, i.e., they were sent out by congregations. - e.g., Acts 14:14; Romans 16:7
- F. Our study pertains to the apostles of Christ to the world under the Great Commission.

II. What was their mission?

- A. Jesus promised to send them a “Helper” to take His place. - John 14:16
 - 1. definition: *parakletos*: 1) summoned, called to one’s side, esp. called to one’s aid 1a) one who pleads another’s cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate 1b) one who pleads another’s cause with one, an intercessor 1c) in the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant 1c1) of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father (**SeedMaster**, quoting **TDNT**)).
 - 2. The promise of the “Helper” (“Comforter,” **King James Version**) was specifically to the apostles. - John 13:1-4, 21-30; cf. Mark 14:17-21; John 14:16-18
- B. By the help of the Holy Spirit the apostles of Christ:
 - 1. received all the truth of the gospel. - John 14:26; 16:13-15
 - 2. were able to bear witness of Christ. - John 15:26-27
 - 3. were able to prophesy the future. - John 16:13

III. Did they fulfill their mission?

- A. They received, revealed, and wrote down for us all the truth of the gospel. - Ephesians 3:1-7
 - 1. This is a once-for-all-time revelation. - Jude 3
 - 2. It is not to be altered. - Galatians 1:6-9
 - 3. It is completely sufficient for our spiritual needs. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4
- B. They bore witness to Christ. - Acts 2:22-42; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- C. They prophesied the future. - e.g., 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; 2 Peter 3:1-10
- D. Their teaching and testimony were miraculously confirmed. - Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:1-4

Conclusion:

- A. The apostles by the help of the Holy Spirit completed their work.
- B. The result of their work, the New Testament, is our complete rule of faith and practice, and all the guidance we need to please God and go to heaven.
- C. Make it your guide and stay.