

Follow the Spirit of God

John 3:8

The wind blows where it will, and thou hearest it s sound but dost not know where it comes from or where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

(The purpose of this sermon is to discuss ways to understand the difficulty involved in following the Spirit of God and to suggest ways for keeping a close relationship to the living God. After hearing this sermon, the congregation should know two points (1) the relationship between spirit and truth; (2) practical ways to live by God's love.)

Introduction

(Show personal experience relating to the life of faith. For example, some important breakthrough obtained as a result of a sincere display of faith and love.)

- I. Jesus said that those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)
 - A. The Spirit of God is God's Heart and Love seeking to fulfill God's ideal of creation.
 - B. The truth of God is the principle, which guides our lives toward God's ideal.

- II. Truth is fulfilled through the Spirit – in other words, through heart and love.
 - “And if I have prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, yet do not know charity, I am nothing (1 Corinthians 13:12).
 - A. Truth without spirit is sterile; dogmatic faith without love is of no value.
 - B. The “letter” of truth may kill the Spirit, whereas the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6).
 - C. Love brings forgiveness of sins.
 - “Wherefore I saw to thee, her sins, many as they are, shall be forgiven her, because she has loved much. But he to whom little is forgiven loves little.” (Luke 7:47)

III. In order to follow the Spirit of God, we need to live by faith – in other words, to open ourselves up to God’s work in us.

A. God’s Spirit is like the wind, which blows where it will (John 3:8). To be open to God’s Spirit is to be ready to hear the voice of God from anywhere – from children, from nature, from events. (An example would be good here.) If we think we hear God’s voice, we must be humble and meek.

B. A childlike attitude helps to keep our mind open to God.

“Amen I say to you, unless you turn and become like little children, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3)

Children are ready to believe in idealistic things. They are willing to be led by those whom they trust.

C. If we readily believe in things that seem impossible, if we are open to miracles, then miracles will happen.

Conclusion

Those who open their heart with a loving and trusting attitude will find the Spirit of God and will be guided by the living God.