Title: Captivate Us, Lord

Brandy Helton, Garden Gathering, 5/28/23

Praise God. What a glorious day. This is officially Pentecost Sunday. The day that Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early church after Jesus's death, resurrection and ascension. God remembers, amen. Say, "God remembers."

I am reminded of being in Jerusalem the first time I visited Israel. We went to the Garden of Gethsemane, and I had probably the greatest encounter I have had in the spiritual realm. I walked into that place on the dirt, in the region, in the garden and the atmosphere where the Lord labored, wrestled, and destroyed the works of the enemy for us as He fully surrendered to the Father's will. He said, "Not my will, but your will be done." As I walked into that place, I heard the Lord speak, "I remember." That is all He had to say, "I remember," amen.

We honor Him, and we bless His holy name as we remember all of His feasts, His special days, and all the things He has done for us. He puts things in our hearts to remember. Yet, we are the Lord's remembrance. We need to always remember and never forget all that He has done every day. So, today is one of those days and the Spirit is being honored today.

John 1:29-34 NKJV

Matthew 3:11-12

The fire of God and the baptism of great Holy Ghost is not just for the gifts of Holy Spirit to have the preeminence in every saint. The baptism of Holy Spirit and fire is to bring the Spirit of Holiness to rest upon, in and within His saints and to destroy and consume with the fire of God, the enemies of God, who have kept us in sin and darkness. The Spirit of Holiness rested upon Jesus Christ. He was baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire. The heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon Him, "likened unto a dove," rested and remained on Him. Rested there in fullness, so He could fulfill the work that God gave Him to do as a man and God. Amen.

Romans 1:2-4

Last week we honored and understood that the Spirit of Holiness is the power of resurrection that literally raised Christ from the dead and raised us up out of sin out of bondage, yes. Raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in heavenly places now. When you are born again, we have the privilege and the honor to host Holy Spirit inside. So, if you have been born again, Jesus Christ is your master, and Holy Ghost lives inside of you. But, there is still more. There is a baptism in Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Holiness and fire will work in us all the days of our life on the planet, to consume everything that is not of God, and fill us with power, holiness, courage, strength, and all the attributes of Christ. Isn't that glorious? We are not alone. Amen.

See, this just trumps dead religion and dead works. God is giving honor to the Spirit of Holiness, and Holy Spirit is an ever present help. Jesus called Him our "Helper." Yes, the Great Comforter, Holy Spirit, is an ever present help in times of trouble. We need Him now. It is not that we are going to be without Him in Heaven, but we won't need help in Heaven. We will have arrived. Amen. We need help here. We need help now. He is an "ever present help." The Spirit of Holiness is an ever present help.

Luke 11:20

Now, the "finger of God," means by the power of God, and divine efficiency by which something is made visible to men. The Kingdom of God has been made visible to mankind

through Jesus Christ and through great Holy Ghost. It is not that there is power in the finger. But, if you go back and look at it in the Bible, it is going to reference another miraculous time in Egypt.

Exodus 8:19

The Spirit of Holiness is at hand you understand? The "finger of God," means "by the power of God, divine efficiency, by which something is made visible to men." It was made visible to John, as he baptized the Lord Jesus in the Jordan, when he saw the Spirit of God descend from Heaven and rest upon Jesus. He was able to see and Holy Spirit was made clear and evident. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He overcame and He displaces the spirits of error, and all witchcraft, found in all false doctrines and teachings. He is the Spirit of Truth. He overcomes. He displaces the spirits of error and witchcraft found in all false doctrines and teachings. He removes all lies. Say, "all lies." He uncovers all deception. Nothing is hidden from Him. He is Light in the midst of all darkness.

Holy Spirit will grant conviction to the sinner and saint. Once you get born again, your conviction is not over. It has just begun, because He is doing a purifying work in the saint. The one that has just been born again, transported out of darkness, and into light. Great Spirit of Holiness is perfecting, sanctifying, and preparing us for Jesus Christ. That is His work. So, don't kick against the goads, right? He grants conviction. We need to thank God that we can feel and have conviction, and that we can actually repent and change the way we are thinking. Amen. He removes all lies. He uncovers all deception. He is Light in the midst of all darkness. He is always here. He is an "ever present help," in time of need. Holy Spirit will grant conviction to the sinner and saint, and He will draw all hearts to God the Father, the Lord of all.

Romans 2:4

He is still doing it. He is changing us spirit, soul and body. He opens eyes and ears and hearts to the Father's love and kingdom. He will rest upon those who have honored Him. We want to always honor Him. We have made Him Lord.

II Corinthians 3:17

It is one thing to know about the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit as Lord and God. It is another thing to make God the Father, Lord of your life, Jesus Christ, Lord of your life and Holy Spirit, Lord of your life. When Holy Ghost becomes Lord of your life, everything is going to change, because the "finger of God," just touched you, amen.

Certain church denominations that have chosen not to honor Holy Spirit, His power, and the fivefold anointing as given by the Lord Jesus, have tremendous opportunity now to turn and accept and believe. I will say it again. Certain church denominations that have chosen not to honor Holy Spirit and His power, that means all of Him and the five fold anointings which are apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher from Christ Jesus, now have tremendous opportunity to turn, accept and believe. There was a time in most of our lives where we did not know there was a Holy Spirit. Right?

Hollywood mocks Him. He is not an esoteric power or energy. He is not a thought or promotion or sales pitch. He is not to be mocked. He is God. Yes. When He is made Lord, everything in your life changes. It changed for me.

Ephesians 4:1-6

You hear the unity of the Spirit. It is the Spirit that brings us into that unity to understand the Godhead and to love one another, amen. Look to know more of the Spirit. "Holy Spirit, I want to know you. I yield to you. Jesus baptize me in the Holy Ghost and fire and change my life.

I want to know you and be intimate with you. I want to know you. I want to know all about you." Look to Him. Look to know more of the Spirit, because He reveals the Son, Jesus Christ.

He will always magnify the Father. It is the Spirit who reveals the Son. It is the Spirit whom Jesus said He would give when He had to go back to Heaven. He says, "He will come and He will remain with you, abide in you, and He will never leave you, fail you, or forsake you." Yes, He reveals the Son, Jesus Christ, and He always magnifies the Father. That is how you know His presence. Amen.

All cults and false religions which have their own, "doctrines and personal beliefs, methods, teachings and false leaders," deny Holy Spirit, and deny He is God. Ultimately, all antichrist spirits deny that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah, and the Anointed One sent from Heaven as God in the flesh.

We have these little booklets, "Christianity, Culture, and Religion," that we pass out in our school of ministry. It will not tell you every one that is out there, but a lot of well known ones. It has a section describing the Father, what they believe and what Christianity really believes. It describes Jesus Christ, what we believe and what they believe. Holy Ghost, and what they believe and what we believe. None of them have Holy Ghost "as God." There you go. You will know the difference, between the spirit of error and the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of antichrist. Because, they make war against the Spirit of Holiness.

You know this. It should make you so thankful. No matter where we were in darkness, God found us and He gives us the gift of repentance. He delivers us, adopts us and makes us His own. Isn't that wonderful?

Mark 3:20-23

They have just said that the power that Jesus is moving in is through the power of Satan or Beelzebub. These are the religious leaders, not the heathen. Right? These are the religious leaders. Read the words in red.

Mark 3:24-30

So, when we talk about the Spirit of Holiness, Jesus takes this very seriously. We have an opportunity to see the testimony that He walked by, because as He is moving in the power of the Spirit of Holiness, the religious leaders accused and said, "you are doing this through an unclean spirit, through the power of Satan, through Beelzebub." Jesus says, "You can say whatever you want about me, and curse me, but if you ever blaspheme Holy Spirit, you will never be forgiven. Only eternal damnation for you." Read the words in red. That is the line in the sand with Spirit of Holiness. That is why, as the Church, we honor and glorify and want Holy Spirit to rest upon us in fullness, yes. It is not a game, right? He is very serious about this.

If you had any kind of Bible upbringing, once you go through repentance and see this, you say, "Oh my, God, I hope I never committed the unpardonable sin." Many of you felt that, but I say, don't worry. If you are concerned that you have, then you have not. But, it puts a fear of God in you. It puts the fear of the Lord on you. He is called the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. The Spirit yearns jealously. The Spirit is jealous for us.

James 4:5-6

God is jealous. He yearns for us. He is hovering over us. He is drawing us. He is calling us to Himself. He wants us to know Him. He wants us to know Jesus. He wants us to know the Father. Right? It is a Spirit of Truth. It is the Spirit of Holiness that brings us to the Father. The Holy Spirit will come to households. His promise is for all of God's family. Say, "thank you, Lord." It is just remarkable to me that God Almighty would want to choose to dwell with us.

Then put His Spirit in us, and have His Holy Spirit rest upon us to do the works of Jesus. It is absolutely astounding. Amen.

Acts 2:1-4

Everybody is being wrecked. Everyone is being touched. Everyone is hearing the good news, but some mocked. They said, "Man, these dudes are drunk. Peter gets up and says, "These guys aren't drunk."

Acts 2:14-18

We are never to grieve or quench Holy Spirit. Quench means "to get water and pour it on the fire and put it out." Grieve means "to hurt, dishonor, or ignore Him. We are supposed to be baptized in Holy Spirit and fire. We are supposed to be "being filled with Holy Spirit." Honor the Godhead, walk in the Spirit, be holy as He is holy." Jesus was set apart 100% to the Father and the Holy Spirit, right? He was sanctified in the Holy Spirit. Set apart solely for God's purpose for Him. "Adhere to and cling to the Spirit of Truth." He said, "Father, sanctify them in truth."

The Spirit of Holiness is going to work the work in us that is actually sanctifying us and setting us apart for the work of God in us. Christ in us, for God's good pleasure and glory. We are literally being made holy, sanctified, and set apart for God. "Thy word is truth. Father, Sanctify them in your truth, by the Spirit of holiness." That is what He is doing in us. Just like Jesus was, He is our forerunner. He is our God and King. He is the One that has gone before. This is a deep work. When you know it, you will yield to Him, and let Him have His way.

This morning *during worship*, He was uprooting discouragement and imparting and stirring up courage. Yes, God hears our prayers. He is only wanting the best for each and every one of us. Those who have family and kids, you only want the best for your children. Well, how much more your heavenly Father. "Take courage," He hears your prayer and He shall provide, period. "Wait on the Lord," because He is looking for your best. Shift the way you are thinking. Amen. We are being sanctified in spirit and soul. Renounce all spirits of fear. They oppose the goodness of Holy Ghost. Yes, submit fully to the Spirit of adoption and our Father of glory. The Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Holiness empowers the sons and daughters.

Last week we talked about what work the Spirit of Holiness is doing. What resurrection power He is bringing in the midst of great darkness. That is how He works. We sang all about it this morning. Hallelujah, honor Him, and He is going to rest on you. Amen.

Colossians 2:6-11 NET

"Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him." Walk in Him. Continue to live your lives in Him. It was not just back then when you got saved and baptized, and now you do your own thing. But it is right now,

"Being, rooted and built up in Him and firm in your faith just as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."

Be careful, he says. Don't allow anybody to captivate any part of you.

"Human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world that are not according to Christ," The Anointed One in His anointing.

For in Him all of the fullness of deity lives in bodily form, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. In Him you also were circumcised— not however, with a circumcision performed by human hands, but by the removal of the fleshly body, that is through the circumcision done by Christ."

It is about the heart.

Colossians 2:12-13 NET

Having been buried with Him in baptism, you also have been raised with Him through your faith, in the power of God who raised Him from the dead."

That is a Spirit of Holiness.

"Having been buried with Him in baptism," you gave up your life to Christ, so live with Him all your days. He has got your best interest in mind. But, it is about God's plan, not mine.

"You have been raised with Him through your faith," simple faith.

Just believing what we are saying, believing His Word, and believing on the Lord Jesus.

"You have been raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

That is the Spirit of Holiness. That is the glory of God that we are going to see as the Church of Jesus Christ to the end. In the deepest hours of darkness, resting on the house of the Lord, and the glory of God. It goes beyond your individual gift. It goes beyond your individual anointing. It goes beyond your personal call. It goes to the Father's good pleasure. It goes to the glory of God, that greater glory, amen. The Church has her eyes on Christ, and yielded to the Spirit of Holiness, so He can have His way and get us there.

"And even though you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He nevertheless made you alive with Him, having forgiven all your transgressions."

He did not make us alive to live without Him. He made us alive with Him. Say, "with Him." We are not apart from Him. Jesus said, Holy Ghost will never leave you, fail you, or forsake you. It is a covenant. It is a covenant, amen. What hope we have!

Colossians 2:14-23 NET

"He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. Disarming the rulers and authorities, He has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross." This is our victory.

He says, "therefore," I have done all that, so back to day to day.

"Therefore, do not let anyone judge you with respect to food or drink, or in the matter of a feast, new moon or Sabbath days—these are only the shadow of things to come, but the reality is Christ."

Pentecost is just a shadow of things to come. Passover is a shadow of things to come. Tabernacles is the shadow of things to come. There is a millennial, glorious, heavenly realm laid out for us in glory. Yes, these are but a shadow, just a taste, and a glimpse of one side of the Lord's face toward those who love Him.

"Let no one who delights in humility and the worship of angels pass judgment on you. That person goes on at great lengths about what He has supposedly seen, but He is puffed up with

empty notions by His fleshly mind. He has not held fast to the head from whom the whole body supported and knit together through its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God."

"If you have died with Christ to the elemental spirits of this world, why do you submit to them as though you lived in the world? Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch! These are all destined to perish with use, founded as they are on human commands and teachings. Even though they had the appearance of wisdom with their self-imposed worship and false humility achieved by an unsparing treatment of the body— a wisdom with no true value— they in reality result in fleshly indulgence."

Only the Spirit of Holiness can set us free from the carnality of this world, the sin nature, and the ruling spirits. It is the Spirit of Holiness that keeps us from getting in bondage, off track of the course of the glory of God, and it turns back to you. Yes, our focus is on Him.

Colossians 3:1-17 NET

"Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ."

How many times has he said that so far? He is trying to show you where we reside.

"Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Keep thinking about things above, not the things on the Earth for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with Him. So put to death whatever is in your nature that belongs to this Earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience." Oh, thank you, Jesus.

"You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them." There is the truth we talked about last week.

"But now, put off all such things." Now, he is getting to the Christian, the saint that the Spirit of Holiness is perfecting.

"Put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the One who created it." Halleluiah.

"Here, there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all."

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with a heart of mercy,"

This is the fruit of the Spirit of Holiness.

"kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone has a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others. And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond. Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace) and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Amen. Those who have an ear to hear, let us hear what the Spirit of Holiness is saying.

Let's stand up and pray. "Father, we honor your word. We honor the Spirit of Holiness. We honor the great movement of your Spirit. Thank you, Father, that you decided that none should perish. Thank you that you have saved us, healed us, and delivered us. Thank you that you are sanctifying, transforming, and making us like Jesus. A work we could never do apart from you. Here we are, Lord. Bless us and pour out your Spirit upon us and our families. Baptize us in the Holy Ghost and fire. Fulfill your word that we would all be filled to know the goodness of God in the land of the living. Show us your glory. Use us to save, heal, deliver and take this gospel every day into our lives, our everyday walk, and wherever you send us. We love you, and we bless your name today, in Jesus' name, amen." Hallelujah. Be blessed.