

Fully Proclaimed

"I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—by the power signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ."
(Romans 15:18-19)

These are the words of Paul concerning what God had done through him by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul had fully proclaimed the good news of God's grace in Christ, and people's lives were being changed forever.

This proclamation of the gospel of Jesus was empowered by the miracles and signs that accompanied the message (Hebrews 2:3-4). The Acts of the Apostles shows this happening, first among Jews starting with Peter at Pentecost, and then through Paul among non-Jews.

Paul's preaching was miraculously empowered with signs and wonders, just as Peter's was. This is important for two reasons:

- 1) Paul's message was validated by the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The non-Jews who received his message were themselves validated as true believers.

The Holy Spirit is the **source** of the message of the gospel.

"Take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."
(Ephesians 6:17)

"... told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven." (1 Peter 1:12)

The Spirit is the **power** behind the message.

"Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power—with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction." (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

God's Spirit is the **validator or seal** of the message's power to bring salvation to sinners.

"From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 1:13)

The Holy Spirit continues to empower the preaching and teaching of the Word of God today. He both validates the message we proclaim and the people who are coming to God through the gospel of Christ. The gospel is being fully presented and lives are being changed by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Father, every person on earth needs to know and experience your loving kindness. I thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit that accompanies the preaching and teaching of the good news about Jesus. I pray that you will continue to work with power through the Spirit in validating the message, convicting people's hearts, and bring them to repentance. And may your Spirit fill their lives, that people from all corners of the globe and every walk of life will become living witnesses of the power of the risen Christ! Amen.

Scott