




Ontology Expressed as Obedience



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More and more, I'm coming to see how in all our debates about salvation and atonement the big missing piece in all of these discussions is **the Holy Spirit**. We focus so much on the forgiveness of sins that we miss seeing how *salvation is receiving the Holy Spirit*. Especially from a Christus Victor perspective, what liberates us from the powers of Sin, Death and Satan? **The Holy Spirit**.

What moves us--ontologically--from Death to Life? **The Holy Spirit**. What vitally reconnects us with and allows us to participate in God's being and life? **The Holy Spirit**. What is the ontological glue that binds the church together across time and space? **The Holy Spirit**. What is the power that gives us the moral capacity to obey the Law of Love to advance in holiness and spiritual perfection? **The Holy Spirit**. Simply put, the **Spirit is Salvation**.



When They Come for You?

¹⁷ But the **high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees)**, and they were filled with **jealousy**.

¹⁸ They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰ **“Go, stand and [i]speak to the people in the temple [i]the whole message of this Life.”** ²¹ **Upon hearing *this*, they entered into the temple about daybreak and *began to teach.***



The Plot Thickens

- Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the [k]Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent *orders* to the prison house for them to be brought. ²² But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back, ²³ saying, “We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside.” ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple *guard* and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what [!]would come of this.
- ²⁵ But someone came and reported to them, “The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!” ²⁶ Then the captain went along with the officers and *proceeded* to bring them *back* without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).



Courageous Conviction

When they had brought them, they stood them [m]before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and [n]yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, **“We must obey God rather than men.”** ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, [o]whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a [p]cross. ³¹ He is the one whom God exalted [q]to His right hand as a [r]Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses [s]of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”



Let the Wookiee Win

³³ But when they heard this, they were cut [t]o the quick and intended to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. ³⁵ And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. [u]But he was killed, and all who [v]followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he too perished, and all those who [w]followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or [x]action is of men, it will be overthrown; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”



Powered by the Spirit of God

⁴⁰ They [y]took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they **flogged them** and **ordered them not to [z]speak in the name of Jesus**, and *then* released them.

⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the [aa]Council, **rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.** ⁴² And every day, in the temple and [ab]from house to house, **they [ac]kept right on teaching and [ad]preaching Jesus *as* the [ae]Christ.**



The Promise – The Mission – Acts 1:8

8 **but you will receive**
POWER when the Holy
Spirit has come upon
you; and you shall be
My witnesses



Power Encounters

The Holy Spirit will give
you the ability to tell
what *you have*
experienced - with
miraculous results!!!!



Outrageously Amazing Message!!

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY