

which is based on evidence. Our Christian confidence is based on the many evidences God has given us of which perhaps the most outstanding is the fact of the resurrection which some have called the best authenticated fact in all history! The fact that up to 500 people saw him alive after his death, proving that what he had claimed about himself was true, proving that his crucifixion had indeed been acceptable as paying the penalty for our sins. So these many convincing proofs are rightly stressed here at the very beginning of the account of the activity of the Christian church.

Then we have the promise of the Holy Spirit, and here we have a place where many people have differed in their interpretation. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." They were told to wait. They waited 10 days, and then they had that tremendous scene at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Most interpreters now believe that the Holy Spirit comes upon every Christian when they believe. We certainly have evidence of that in the way that Paul dealt with the people who came and said that they were Christians, but had received only the baptism of John. When he questioned them it seemed that they were on their way to becoming Christians. And when he had instructed them fully then immediately the Holy Spirit came upon them.

When Cornelius and his family received the word from Peter immediately the Holy Spirit came upon them. It is not our purpose today to discuss the various views on this point. The important matter for us is that we need the activity of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in our lives. We should look to God to make the Holy Spirit available to us more and more and to show His activity more and more in our lives.

Then I'd like to look at the disciples last question. You notice that it says that during these 40 days (v.3) Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God. What did He speak about when He spoke about the kingdom of God? Well, the word kingdom is used in a number of different ways. Certainly the kingdom of God includes everything that God has created. The very breath which a man draws in order to curse God, he draws because God gives him the power with which to do it. The kingdom of God in one sense embraces everything that happens. Because everything is under God's control.

There is another sense in which we can speak of the Kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the activity of those who recognize Jesus Christ as king. Those who try in everything to do His will. Those who consider themselves thoroughly subject to Him. They are surely part of His kingdom. Therefore there is a sense certainly in which we have the kingdom of God among you (us) represented by all of us who look to Jesus Christ as our real leader and as our real king. As the one whom they are trying to follow in every way.

Then there are many who find discussion in the OT at various places of a coming kingdom in which the activity of God, and the will of God will be performed in a way in which it is performed every where today, but in which all on earth will recognize that God is king and at least will seem to be trying to do His will. And in