

Good Morning and God News!!!

**If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13**

**The good news is what God graciously has accomplished in Jesus Christ on our behalf through no merit of our own except for the fact that God loves us. Paul Scott Wilson, Four Pages of the Sermon**

Dr. Wilson has me thinking about God in a different way. He suggests that most of the time we approach God from the Law side. We view God as a God who is up in heaven keeping score of our wrong doings, rather than a God who is empowering us to do right. It is the vision of God sitting upon the judgment throne waiting for us to mess up, rather than the God who makes it possible for us to keep from messing up. Dr. Wilson suggests we turn our image of God around focusing on the Gospel side of God.

Let me give a few examples:

Law: Jesus commands us to follow him.

Gospel: God empowers us to follow Jesus.

Law: God wants Israel to change.

Gospel: God brings Israel to a new place.

Law: God can act in your life.

Gospel: God has already acted in your life.

Dr. Wilson isn't just doing word tricks. He is reminding us to claim God's empowerment in our lives. Jesus said as much. God is willing to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of empowerment, the spirit of life. Through God's Spirit, we can make the right choices in our lives. Through God's Spirit, we can be disciples of Jesus on a daily basis. Through God's Spirit, we can make a difference to those around us. God has gifted us with all we need.

This indeed is Good News; it is God's News.

Pastor Parnell

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the gift of the Spirit. Thank you for empowering me to follow Jesus. Thank you for the gift of new life in Jesus. Amen.