

Doctrinal Preaching

by J.C. Philpot

True power and effectiveness in preaching come from receiving and preaching truths directly under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 2:4, Ephesians 6:17, 2 Timothy 4:2

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Doctrinal Preaching"

Description

J.C. Philpot emphasizes the importance of doctrinal preachers receiving truths directly from God rather than secondhand, comparing the impact of preaching under the influence of the Holy Spirit to mimic thunders. He highlights historical figures like Luther, Whitefield, and Toplady who preached with divine power and urges current ministers to seek the same spiritual depth in their preaching. Philpot stresses that the effectiveness of preaching lies in the power of the Holy Spirit, without which preaching becomes mere performance.

Transcript

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Some people cannot understand why the doctrinal preachers of our day should not be as highly esteemed and as greatly blessed as the doctrinal preachers of the last century. They do not see the wide difference between receiving the truth at first hand and at second hand. When Toplady preached election, and Whitefield urged the new birth, they preached what their souls had received directly and immediately from God. It was not with them a second or third running, but the pure blood of the grape. Their souls had drunk of the wine of the kingdom; and, like the apostles on the day of Pentecost, they preached under its influence. Peter preaching Christ's resurrection at Jerusalem; Athanasius contending for the Trinity at Alexandria; Luther declaring justification by Christ's righteousness at Wittenberg; Knox thundering against Popery at St. Andrews; Whitefield pouring out his very soul in enforcing the new birth in Moorfields; Toplady urging election at Orange Street Chapel--all preached with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven.

Many ministers now preach just the same truths; but are they equally blessed? No! Why not? Because they have not received them in the same way, nor do they preach them under the same power and influence. Their thunders are mimic thunders; their preaching is rather acting than preaching. Some one

asked to see the sword of Scanderbeg, a celebrated warrior against the Turks, which was preserved in a museum. "Why," exclaimed he, "there is nothing remarkable in this sword." "No," was the reply; "but you should have seen the arm which wielded it." So the doctrines of justification, as preached by Luther, and of the new birth, as urged by Whitefield, may be stated by any white-cravated youth, with a few hairs on his chin. It may be the sword of Scanderbeg; but where is the hand that made it drunk with the blood of the slain? The secret of all preaching and of all writing is the power of the Holy Spirit; and if that be denied, the tongue and pen are both those of the stage-actor!

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