

Matthew 10:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Analysis

Jesus explains the source: 'For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you' (οὐ γάρ υμεῖς εστε οἱ λαλοῦντες αλλα τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ πατρὸς υμῶν τοῦ λαλοῦν εν υμῖν). The Holy Spirit empowers witness, not human eloquence or preparation. 'Spirit of your Father' emphasizes intimate relationship—the Spirit belongs to the Father who is your Father. This familial language comforts: you're not alone facing hostile courts; your Father's Spirit speaks through you. 'In you' (εν υμῖν) indicates indwelling presence. This anticipates Pentecost (Acts 2) when the Spirit would permanently indwell believers. The promise combines divine sovereignty (Spirit speaks) with human instrumentality (speaks 'in you'). Believers become vessels for divine speech.

Historical Context

Old Testament prophets experienced God's Spirit enabling speech (Ezekiel 3:24-27, Micah 3:8). Jesus promises this same prophetic enablement to all disciples. Pentecost fulfilled this: Spirit-filled believers spoke boldly (Acts 2:4, 4:31). Early church understood witness as Spirit's work through believers, not human achievement. This democratized prophecy: not just special leaders but all believers receive Spirit's enabling for witness. Church history shows ordinary believers empowered to extraordinary testimony under persecution.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does knowing the Spirit speaks through us transform our confidence in witnessing?
2. What is the relationship between the Spirit's empowerment and our human responsibility to witness?
3. How can we remain open to the Spirit's leading rather than relying solely on prepared speeches?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	γὰρ	ὑμεῖς	ἐστε	τὸ	λαλοῦν	ἀλλὰ	τὸ	πνεῦμα
not	For	ye	it is	which	speaketh	but	which	the Spirit
G3756	G1063	G5210	G2075	G3588	G2980	G235	G3588	G4151

τὸ	πατρὸς	ὑμῶν	τὸ	λαλοῦν	ἐν	ὑμῖν
which	Father	of your	which	speaketh	in	you
G3588	G3962	G5216	G3588	G2980	G1722	G5213

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:10 (Spirit): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Luke 21:15 (Parallel theme): For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

2 Samuel 23:2 (Spirit): The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

Luke 12:12 (Spirit): For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

2 Peter 1:21 (Spirit): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:4 (Spirit): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 4:8 (Spirit): Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

2 Corinthians 13:3 (Parallel theme): Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

Acts 28:25 (Spirit): And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

Acts 13:9 (Spirit): Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,