Restoration Through the Spirit

Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-21

Isaiah prophesied it and Luke testified to it:

- Jesus created new life where there once was death.
- He renewed the original creation, which means he's working in union with the life-giving Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 61:1-3 NASB

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord anointed me
To bring good news to the humble;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim release to captives
And freedom to prisoners;
2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
3 To grant those who mourn in Zion,
Giving them a garland instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness instead of mourning,
The cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit.
So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Luke 4:16-21 NASB

16 He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and
as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath,
and stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of Isaiah the prophet
was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the
place where it was written:
18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
19To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."
20 And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant,
and sat down; and the eyes of all the people in the synagogue
were intently directed at Him. 21 Now He began to say to
them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Consider the prophesy of restoration…

- Isaiah 61:1-3 describes a prophetic figure who's empowered by God's Spirit to bring restoration.
  - He declares the good news of God's coming kingdom to the poor, liberates the oppressed, announces the "favorable year of the LORD," and comforts those who are grieving.
- The phrase "favorable year of the LORD" refers to the restorative Year of Jubilee.
  - God told the Israelites that every 50th year they were to free slaves and return any land that had been sold back to its original owner, breaking the cycle of generational poverty (ref Lev. 25).

Consider Jesus' fulfillment of the prophesy…

- In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus reads part of that passage from the scroll of Isaiah.
  - And then he declares that *he's* bringing this prophetic promise to fulfillment right then, in their midst.
  - The Spirit is sending and empowering him to restore those who are weighed down by poverty, trapped by injustice, and bowed down in suffering and grief.

Consider Jesus' restorative works…

- Jesus heals the sick and oppressed, brings freedom from evil spirits, and calls people to lives of radical generosity so that all will have what they need.
  - Jesus is creating life where there once was death.
  - He is renewing all of creation, which means he's working in union with the life-giving Holy Spirit.

Reflect

How does the Old Testament provide a framework for understanding the New Testament?

What would you say to someone that says the Old Testament is not needed today?

How does Isaiah 61:1-3 provide a framework for understanding Jesus' ministry? What are some ways he fulfills these verses?

More Relevant Scripture References

- Isaiah 11:1-5
- Matthew 12:15-21