

REVIEW: Understanding the Power of God

Ac 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. **5** Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. **7** They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? **9** "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs--we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God." **12** And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."

Ac 4:27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, **28** to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. **29** "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, **30** while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." **31** And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Ac 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" 48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Intro- The Holy Spirit is one of the most misunderstood entities in Scripture. While so much is written about Him yet He remains mysterious and mystical to so many. He is inappropriately called an "it" , a power, a force. When in truth He is God. He is the Comforter. He is the Spirit of Christ.

The misunderstanding begins with the Godhead or the Trinity.

1. God exists in three forms and they are all Equal

Mt 3:13 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" 15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. 16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

A. Roles don't necessarily change equality!!

If we could get that we could understand submission biblically!

Eph 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

2. The Holy Spirit comes to Release the Power of Christ!

What Should One Expect?

A. Courage to become Christ's Witness

Ac 1:4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

B. Power to Pray Effectively

Ro 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

C. Power to Live Victoriously

Lk 10:17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

3. What Must I Do to be Filled

Be Saved

Jn 14:16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Be Obedient

Ac 5:32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Be Thirsty

Jn 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, `From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Be Willing to Ask

Lk 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. 11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? 12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

STUDY ASSIGNMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- 1. READ Acts chapters 1 and 2. Share at least three observations.**
- 2. When do we receive the Holy Spirit to dwell within?**
- 3. When do we surrender our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit?**

Eph. 5.18-21

- 4. What are the four requirements for being filled with the Spirit or receiving the baptism of the Spirit?**
- 5. Name two things should expect to do after you surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit?**

Power of Salvation

Leading People to Christ

Ro 1:11 For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine. 13 I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. 14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Intro- The greatest influence and the most effective witness comes through wholesome relationships. When a person feels genuinely loved by you over time, sees you walk humbly before God and experiences the impact of your life they will want to be saved.

In this lesson we will address the overall strategy for winning the lost along with the details for conversion when they are ready.

THE COMMAND

Mt 28:17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

THE RESPONSE

Ac 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" **38** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." **40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" **41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

1. Live a Life of Principle

Mic 6:6 With what shall I come to the LORD And bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? **7** Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? **8** He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

- A. Let them see Christ in your Home**
- B. Let them see Christ in your Work**
- C. Let them see Christ in You**

2. Live a Life of Love

Jn 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35**

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- A. Let them Experience His Love for Others**
- B. Let them Experience His Love for Truth and Justice**
- C. Let them Experience His Love for Them**

3. Lead Them to Life

All have sinned

Ro 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

All will die

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Are Loved

Ro 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

All Can Be Saved

Ro 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

YOU MUST REPENT

2Co 7:9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. 10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.