

Acts 03 – **Receive POWER !! - Acts 2:1-11**

We Desperately **NEED** the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit
in order to **Live** for Jesus Christ

John Stott - Respected Scholar & Theologian

Without the Holy Spirit, Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, even impossible. There can be no life without the life giver, no understanding without the Spirit of truth, no fellowship without the unity of the Spirit, no Christ-likeness of character apart from His fruit, and no effective witness without His power. As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead

THAT pretty much sums it up . . . but *I'll prob keep talking*

William Barclay - Scholar & Theologian

“From that moment (in Acts Ch 2) the Holy Spirit became the dominant reality in the life of the early Church . . . The Holy Spirit was the source of all guidance . . . all the leaders of the church were men of the Spirit . . . The Spirit was the source of day to day courage and power.

That's the **way it started** - & that's the way it's **supposed** to be

Jesus Christ is the **HEAD** of the Church
& The Holy Spirit is the **Administrator** of **POWER**

He's the one that makes the church **vibrant** & **alive**

The *Holy Spirit* is the source of all **GUIDANCE**

All church Leaders **MUST BE** Filled with the *Spirit*

The *Holy Spirit* is the source of our day-to-day **COURAGE** & **POWER**

The Holy Spirit **DOES NOT replace** Jesus as the **HEAD**

But He's the one who **DIRECTS US**,
gives us **POWER**, & gives us **LIFE**

As John Stott said

. . . As a body without breath is a corpse, so the church without the Spirit is dead

Let's Pray

I want to **talk** to you today about **being FILLED** with **The Holy Spirit**

& I'd like to **start** by just taking a minute to **explain**
what I **MEAN** when I say **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit

Because **the Enemy** has succeeded
in causing so much **confusion** & **debate**
over the **POWER** that we **need** most to Live for Christ

that - I just want to **start off** with Two **Quick Explanations**

In Last week's msg we looked at - John 14:16-17 (esv)

*16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,
to be with you forever,*

*17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he
dwells with you and will be in you.*

& I **mentioned** that we were going to look
at the **two** little **Prepositions** - **WITH** & **IN**

WITH is the Greek Word - **PARA** = *By, Beside, Near*

This is what the Holy Spirit was **BEFORE** Jesus Died & Rose again making it **possible** for us to be the **TEMPLE** of the Holy Spirit

Until then - the Holy Spirit was **WITH** us

80 times in the OLD Testament

the Holy Spirit is referred to as **WITH** God's People

do you see the "**WITH**" - there in **V.17** ??

Then - at the **end** of **V.17** Jesus says to His disciples the Holy Spirit will be **IN** you

& if we'll look over at - John 20:21-22 (esv)

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

These are the **SAME** Disciples - we're about to see in **Acts Ch 2**

that Jesus tells to **WAIT** for the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit **before** they can do **anything** for Him

But **here** - they clearly **RECEIVE** the Holy Spirit

At **THIS** point - the Holy Spirit was **IN** the Disciples

Jesus had conquered Sin - **Making** Believers **Righteous** so they were **ABLE** to be the **Temple** of the Holy Spirit

as 1Cor 6:19 says → →

as 1Cor 6:19 says (esv)

19 . . . your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God . . .

This **occurs** for us today - **AT SALVATION** !!

You **become** the Temple of the Holy Spirit

the Holy Spirit is **IN** you !!

Also Eph 1:13 says (esv)

13 . . . [when you] believed in him, [you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Again - this happens to us **when we believe**

It **happened** to the Disciples in **JN Ch 20** -
substantially **BEFORE Acts Ch 1**

So **WHY** did Jesus **DEMAND** that they **WAIT**
until they Received the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit in **Acts 1:8** ??

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Well - There's a **different Preposition** here

You will **Receive Power** when the Holy Spirit has come **UPON** you

This is the **Greek Word** - **EPI**

& **the picture** is of something **FLOWING UPON** or **OVER** something

It's like a **Pitcher** of Water & a Glass

Pitcher **NEXT** to Glass = **PARA** (with)

Pitcher pours water **INTO** Glass = **EN** (in)

Pitcher **CONTINUES** to pour water until overflowing - **EPI** (upon)

Today - we're **NOT** talking about the Holy Spirit being **WITH** us

We're **NOT** talking about the Holy Spirit being **IN** us

We're **Talking** about the Holy Spirit being **UPON** us - For **POWER**

The Holy Spirit had been **WITH** the Disciples

The Holy Spirit was **IN** the Disciples

But Jesus made them **WAIT**

until the Holy Spirit was **UPON** them - for **POWER** to be Witnesses

The other **easy place** we can confirm this is

Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

Paul **CONTRASTS** being **Filled with the Spirit**

to being **drunk with wine** - - Because . . .

As **Alcohol** effects **EVERY** possible area of your life for **EVIL**

So being **filled** with the **Spirit** effects

EVERY possible area of your life for **GOD**

But the **real point** today is this → →

The Greek here is Literally - **BE** - **BEING FILLED** (& it's a command)
It means **Be** Filled - **Be Being** filled - & **Always Be** Filled

It's the **Picture** of the **Pitcher**
always pouring **Living Water** into the Glass

THAT - is the **UPON** - that Jesus is referring to in **Acts 1:8**
when He says - ***you will receive power***
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you

Do you see it ??

Today - we're talking about receiving **POWER**
when the Holy Spirit comes **UPON** you

Before we jump into **Acts Ch 2**
Let me recommend **Two BOOKS** about the Holy Spirit

Forgotten God - Francis Chan
Under His Influence - Lloyd Pulley

You can **go** to our teaching website at **WORDBYMAIL.COM**
& click on **RESOURCES** for a link to buy from Amazon

*Or - as I was politely encouraged by one of our faithful Word-By-Mail
listeners who owns a Christian Bookstore . . .
You COULD go down to your local bookstore & buy them*

Either way - I **highly recommend** both these books

You can find them both under the **RESOURCES** link
on the **wordbymail** website

IMAGINE THE SCENE - - put yourself in the Disciples shoes

You've **spent** the last **3 years** with Jesus

you've seen Him **Crucified & Resurrected**
you've **spent** miraculous **time** with Him

& then . . . you **Saw** Him **ASCEND** into heaven
right before your eyes - (*prob in the Shikinah Glory of God*)

& He told you to **WAIT** - to not move - until you received **POWER**
when the **Holy Spirit** had come **UPON** you

because **only then** will you be able to be His **witnesses**

& so - you're **WAITING** . . .

10 days have passed - you know you're **waiting** for **something** . . .

& then . . . Acts 2:1–4 (ESV)

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Pentecost means - **The 50th** -

it came Lit - A **Week of Weeks** after **Passover**

Pentecost was originally called "**The Feast of First-Fruits**"

& was to **celebrate** the first **Harvest**

& so - How Appropriate for the "Feast of First-Fruits"
to celebrate the "First Fruits" of the NT church

Later - Pentecost became a celebration to the Jews
of the Giving of the LAW on Mt Sinai

Also providing a Perfect Contrast
between the Giving of the LAW
& the Giving of the HOLY SPIRIT

This WASN'T an Arbitrary day

this day was CHOSEN for the Holy Spirit to be Poured Out
because of its significance

The other thing we need to SEE
about the BEGINNING of the NT Church

Is that Luke starts off BOTH
the ministry of JESUS - & the ministry of the DISCIPLES

by recognizing the Power & Role of the Holy Spirit

At the baptism of Jesus - Luk 3:21-22 says (esv)

21 . . . the heavens were opened,

22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; . . .

& the very next event - in Luk 4:1 (esv)

1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

& after the Temptation - Luk 4:14 says (esv)

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee . . .

Before Jesus began His ministry:

The Holy Spirit **DESCENDED** on Him - & then
FULL of the Holy Spirit,
Jesus was **LED** by the Spirit,
& Jesus operated in the **POWER** of the Spirit

& now - at the beginning of the NT church

The Holy Spirit **DESCENDS** on the Disciples - & then
FULL of the Holy Spirit,
They will be **LED** by the Spirit,
& will operated in the **POWER** of the Spirit . . .

If it was **Good Enough** for **JESUS**
& **Good Enough** for the **APOSTLES** . . .

Shouldn't **WE** consider - starting the **SAME WAY** ??

120 Disciples - waiting patiently - in **PRAYER** & **UNITY** - for **10 days**
Until the Significant **Day of Pentecost**

Suddenly - the Entire House is FILLED with a sound from heaven
like a **MIGHTY RUSHING WIND** - Like a **Bad Kansas Tornado**

& **THEN** - what appears like FIRE enters the room
it divides - & sits on each person

& **FINALLY** - **EVERYONE** in the room
is **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit

& from **THAT MOMENT** - a **RADICAL** Change takes place
in **EVERY ONE** of the Disciples

No longer do we see **TIMID**, **QUESTIONING**, **UNSURE** Disciples

Instead we see:

STEPHEN - Filled with the Spirit - as he becomes
the first **MARTYR** of the church

PETER - Filled with the Spirit - Now a Forever Changed,
Courageous Spokesman for Christ

PAUL - Filled with the Spirit - Goes from being a Christian Killer
to possibly the Greatest Christian who ever lived

No longer **Timid** & **Confused**

The Disciples are **BOLD** & **INSPIRED**

& they began to **DECLARE** the Gospel, & **LIVE** the Gospel
THRU the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit

& the World has **NEVER** been the same

The Disciples didn't **Debate**, or **Discuss**, - **Hypothesize Theologize**,
or **Criticize** - - their **individual opinions** on the Holy Spirit

The Disciples didn't know **ALL** there was to know
about the Person of The Holy Spirit

But they **KNEW ONE THING**

Jesus said they could **NEVER** be His Witnesses
without the **POWER** of The Holy Spirit

& so the **WAITED**, & they **PRAYED** - until they Received Him

& then - they began to speak in other Languages
as the Spirit empowered them

& then we read - in Acts 2:5–11 (ESV)

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?

8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

***9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,
11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”***

At the sound of the WIND & the commotion
the multitude came running

& there were people from all the different Nations
who all spoke different languages

& they each heard the MIGHTY WORKS OF GOD
Proclaimed in their own language

Guys - These are KNOWN Languages - this is not what sometimes
is called a “Heavenly Language” that Paul refers to in . . .

1 Corinthians 14:2 → →

1 Corinthians 14:2 (ESV)

2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

THIS - is **NOT THAT**

These are known **Earthly Languages** -
known by the people who are **listening**

This is a **miracle** of the Holy Spirit that **allowed** the Disciples
to **SPEAK** in Other Known **Earthly Languages**

I promise - **we'll teach** about the **Unknown Tongues**
when that is what the **CONTEXT** of the Bible is about - ***I promise*** -

but please don't be **focused** on, or **fearful** of,
the abuse that has occurred over "***Unknown Tongues***"

The Context here is **NOT** about
"***Unknown Tongues***" or "***Heavenly Languages***"

& **if** you get **distracted** with that
the Enemy will **WIN AGAIN** in your life

& He will **KEEP you** from **Receiving** the Power
you Absolutely **Desperately NEED** - to live for Christ

Please **don't let** the enemy **rip you off**

This Text is about you **Recognizing** your **NEED**
for the **Power** that the church **CAN NOT** live without

So - **the Disciples** were Miraculously **Speaking**
In **OTHER** Known Languages

But that was **NOT** the **ONLY** sign of **the Power** of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:12 says (esv)

12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

& then - in **V.14** - **PETER** Stands up
& Delivers a **Blistering**, Spirit-Filled **Sermon** (*next week*)

& then - beginning in **Vs.37** we read this

Acts 2:37–39 (ESV)

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you 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 for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Here's the **Real Power** of the Holy Spirit

They were **CUT** to the Heart

They **REPENTED**

They were **BAPTIZED** - &

They **RECEIVED** the gift of The Holy Spirit

& **the Church** took off - **like a ROCKET to the moon!**

Now **Please** - HEAR ME - the **3,000 people** who were added to the church that day - **DID NOT SAY** to Peter . . .

“Well - HOLD ON now - let’s discuss the deeper possible Theological Implications of this whole “Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit” idea

They DID NOT SAY - ***“Well - HOLD ON now - If I receive this gift from the Father, the Promised Holy Spirit, does that mean I might have to change my DOCTRINAL POSITION on the matter?”***

How can we **DEBATE** the **POWER** of God that is **Absolutely Required** to Live the Christian Life?

Have you ever been to **Disneyland** with a **large group** of people & you **stand** in the middle of the Park & **debate** which ride to go on for **so long** - that you eventually **realize** you’re **NOT** going on **ANY** rides, or doing **ANYTHING** because you’re **PARALYZED** in the **DEBATE**?
Or Worse yet - the Group **Splits** up - in **Division** & Discord over **WHERE to go** at the **Happiest Place on Earth ??**

If the **ENEMY** of your Soul **KNEW** - that He could **KEEP** you from the **POWER** required to Live for Christ

By **getting you** caught up in **DEBATING about** the **POWER**

Don’t you **think** He’d do it??

In our **DEBATING** over the Holy Spirit
The **DEVIL** has **KEPT** us from Receiving His **POWER**

Please - As the Word says in **Acts 2:38-39**

Repent and be baptized - in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit - For the promise is for everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

The **PROMISE** of the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit - is for **YOU** !!

Repent - Be Baptized - & RECEIVE the Gift of the Holy Spirit -

AMEN ??

Last week I asked you to **Prepare for Power**
this week I want to ask you to **Receive Power**

I want to encourage you to **RECEIVE** the power of the Holy Spirit

Maybe you've **Never been FILLED** with the Spirit
Maybe you **Need to be CONTINUALLY** Being Filled

I want you to **RECEIVE** the Holy Spirit
to **EMPOWER** you to Live for Jesus

& in **just a minute** - I'm going to ask you to **get up** out of your seats,
& **come stand** up front with me

So that we can **Pray** together - for the **FILLING** of the Holy Spirit

It's **not** because the Holy Spirit is **up here** & **not** where you're at

The act of getting up & **walking** down here is a huge surrender
of your **Pride** & your **Self Focus**

& it's saying to God - in action

I NEED to be FILLED with your Spirit

I desperately NEED the POWER of your Holy Spirit in my life

And I need Him bad enough that I'm willing to STAND in public

& Recognize my need