The Power You Did Not Know You Already Have

There is a question that quietly haunts many believers: If I am supposed to share my faith, why does it feel so impossible? Why does the thought of telling someone about Jesus produce anxiety instead of confidence? Why, after years of attending church, reading scripture, and genuinely loving God, does the Christian life still feel like something I am struggling to pull off on my own?

The answer, more often than not, comes down to a single misunderstood reality: the Holy Spirit.

A Person, Not a Feeling

Before anything else, it is worth establishing what the Holy Spirit is not. He is not simply a warm feeling during worship. He is not a theological footnote reserved for certain denominations. He is not an optional upgrade available to especially devoted Christians. The Holy Spirit is a person -- the third member of the Trinity -- and he is actively, powerfully at work in the life of every believer.

Jesus himself modeled what a life fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit looks like. In Luke 3:21-22, at the moment of his baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in visible form and the voice of the Father declared his pleasure over his Son. From that moment forward, Jesus was filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, anointed by the Spirit, and empowered by the Spirit. His entire ministry -- the healings, the teaching, the miracles, the proclamation of good news -- flowed from a life submitted to the Holy Spirit's work.

That is not a model reserved for Jesus alone. It is the pattern for every person who follows him.

Before You Even Knew

One of the most remarkable truths about the Holy Spirit is that his work in your life began before you were ever aware of it. Long before you prayed a prayer of salvation or walked into a church, the Holy Spirit was already moving. In John 16:8, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the one who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. That restlessness you felt before you came to faith -- that quiet, persistent sense that something was wrong and that you needed something you could not name -- that was the Holy Spirit at work, drawing you toward God.

This matters enormously for how we think about sharing the gospel. The pressure to convince, manipulate, or argue someone into the kingdom is not ours to carry. Our calling is to be witnesses -- to tell the story of what Jesus has done. The convicting and drawing work belongs entirely to the Holy Spirit. He was already working in the people around you long before you showed up in their lives.

What Happens the Moment You Believe

When a person surrenders their life to Jesus, the Holy Spirit does not simply make a brief appearance and move on. He moves in. The New Testament describes this work with several distinct and breathtaking realities.

He regenerates us -- causing us to be, as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5, born again. This is not a self-improvement project. It is a supernatural transformation of your very nature, something only God can accomplish. In Titus 3:4-6, Paul describes salvation as a washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, given generously through Jesus Christ. You do not clean yourself up and then come to God. God sends his Spirit to make you new.

He baptizes us into the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul explains that every believer, regardless of background or culture, is brought into one body by the same Spirit. This is why Christians who have never met can walk into a room together and immediately feel a sense of belonging. It is not personality. It is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit knitting the family of God together.

He indwells us. Romans 8:9-11 makes the staggering claim that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now lives inside every believer. The creator of the universe takes up residence within you. And he seals us, as Paul writes in Ephesians 1:13-14, marking us as belonging to God and guaranteeing our inheritance of eternal life.

The Ongoing Work of Transformation

Salvation is not the end of the Holy Spirit's work. It is the beginning of an ongoing transformation that touches every corner of your life.

He illuminates scripture, making the word of God come alive in ways that are impossible to manufacture through intellectual effort alone. He sanctifies us, gradually shaping our character to look more like Jesus. He produces fruit in our lives -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control -- not through our straining and striving, but through our surrender. He intercedes for us, as Paul describes in Romans 8, praying on our behalf in the moments when we do not even know what to ask for.

And he gives us gifts -- specific, unique capacities to serve and build up the church in ways that only we can.

Power for a Purpose

In Acts 1:8, Jesus makes a promise and states a purpose in the same breath. He tells his disciples they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and that power has a destination: they will be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. The Greek word for power here is dunamis -- the root of our word dynamite. It carries the meaning of strength, ability, and explosive capability.

This is not power for personal comfort. It is power for purpose.

The story of Acts 2 puts flesh on that promise. Peter -- the same man who denied Jesus three times -- stands before a crowd and preaches the gospel with such clarity and conviction that three thousand people surrender their lives to Jesus in a single day. Nothing about Peter changed except one thing: he was now filled with the Holy Spirit.

The same Spirit is available to you. Not to make your life more comfortable, but to make you a witness. The people around you -- your neighbors, your coworkers, your family members -- need to hear the gospel. And you do not have to do it in your own strength. You were never meant to.

Surrender to the work already underway in your life, and let the Holy Spirit do what only he can do.

Here is a list of all scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

- Acts 1:4

- Acts 1:8

- Acts 2:1-4

- Acts 2:37

- Acts 2:38-39

- Luke 3:21-22

- Luke 4:1

- Luke 4:14

- Luke 4:18

- John 3:3

- John 3:5-8

- John 15 (alluded to, regarding the Holy Spirit leading into all truth)

- John 16:8

- Romans 8:9-11

- Romans 8 (alluded to, regarding the Holy Spirit interceding in prayer)

- 1 Corinthians 12 (referenced generally regarding spiritual gifts and baptism of the Spirit)

- 1 Corinthians 12:13

- Galatians (referenced generally regarding the fruit of the Spirit)

- Ephesians 1:13-14

- Ephesians 5 (alluded to, regarding being filled with the Spirit rather than drunk)

- Titus 3:4-6

- Joel 2:28-32 (quoted by Peter in Acts 2)

Alluded to Without Direct Citation

- 1 Corinthians 13 and 14 (referenced alongside chapter 12 regarding spiritual gifts)
- Isaiah 61:1 (the scroll Jesus reads in Luke 4:18)