



## Summary

This powerful teaching takes us deep into Acts chapter 1, where we discover something revolutionary: the Christian life isn't meant to be lived in our own strength. We're introduced to three distinct relationships with the Holy Spirit that transform our understanding of spiritual power. First, there's the 'alongside' relationship—that convicting voice we all heard before salvation, drawing us toward truth. Second, the 'indwelling' relationship occurs the moment we're born again, when Christ takes up residence in our hearts. But here's where it gets exciting: Jesus introduces a third relationship—the baptism with the Holy Spirit—that comes after salvation and provides supernatural power for ministry and victorious living. This isn't optional equipment for super-Christians; it's essential gear for every believer. Jesus Himself modeled this when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him at His baptism, ordaining Him for ministry. The parallel to Aaron's priestly consecration in Exodus 29—washing with water, then anointing with oil—reveals this isn't a New Testament novelty but God's ancient pattern. We're challenged to ask ourselves: if Jesus commanded His own disciples, who walked with Him for three and a half years, to wait for this power before attempting any ministry, why would we think we can be effective witnesses without it? The confusion surrounding this doctrine likely reveals how threatening it is to the enemy's kingdom. When we're baptized with the Holy Spirit, His power doesn't just fill us—it overflows onto everyone around us, making God's invisible kingdom visible through transformed lives.





## Points

Title: The Baptism with the Holy Spirit: Power for Witness and Ministry

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the three distinct relationships believers can have with the Holy Spirit: the "alongside" (para) relationship where the Spirit convicts of sin before salvation, the "indwelling" (en) relationship received at the moment of being born again, and the "upon" (epi) relationship known as the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The pastor emphasizes that Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for this baptism before beginning ministry, indicating it is essential for effective Christian witness and victorious living. The sermon argues that just as the early church began with the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the church today continues to need this empowerment. The pastor addresses confusion in the modern church about this doctrine, attributing it to Satan's efforts to either cause abuse of the gift or outright refusal to accept it. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is presented not as a one-time event but as a fresh filling needed repeatedly for ministry effectiveness, giving believers power to witness in their Jerusalem (local area), Judea (region), Samaria (cross-cultural settings), and to the ends of the earth.

### Key Points:

- Luke authored both the Gospel of Luke and Acts, covering Jesus' life and the first 30-35 years of church history
- Three relationships with the Holy Spirit: para (alongside - conviction), en (indwelling - salvation), and epi (upon - baptism/empowerment)
- Jesus commanded His born-again disciples to wait for the baptism with the Holy Spirit before beginning ministry
- The baptism with the Holy Spirit provides dunamis (dynamic, explosive power) for Christian witness and service
- Jesus Himself was baptized with the Holy Spirit at age 30, fulfilling the Old Testament pattern of priestly ordination
- The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Jesus because He reminds the world of all Jesus said and did
- Satan has confused this doctrine by causing some to abuse it and others to refuse it entirely
- The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not a one-time event but can be received repeatedly for fresh empowerment
- This baptism gives power to resist temptation and live victoriously over the flesh
- Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, churches risk becoming mere Christian social organizations rather than Spirit-empowered bodies

### Scripture Reference:

- Acts 1:4-8 (primary focus)
- Luke 24:44-49
- John 14:12-21
- John 20:22



- Luke 11:9-13
- Luke 3:15-16
- Matthew 24:36
- John 10:27
- Luke 3:21-22
- John 1:30-34
- Exodus 29:1-7
- 1 Corinthians 14:33
- Colossians 4:14

Stories:

- Luke's background as a Gentile physician, possibly a former slave of Theophilus who was trained in medicine and later released to travel with Paul
- The ordination of Aaron and his sons as priests in Exodus 29, which involved washing with water and anointing with oil, serving as a typological picture of Jesus' baptism and anointing with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist at age 30, where the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, marking His ordination into priestly ministry
- Reference to Bugs Bunny cartoons depicting an angel and devil on the shoulders as a cultural illustration of the Holy Spirit's "alongside" convicting work
- Personal testimony of the pastor receiving fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit before every ministry opportunity
- Illustration of water baptism: when someone emerges from baptism and you hug them, you get wet—similarly, when baptized with the Holy Spirit, it "gets on" everyone around you





## Scripture

### Explicitly Mentioned References:

Colossians 4:14 - Luke referred to as "the beloved physician"  
Luke 1:1-4 - Opening verses of Luke's Gospel  
Acts 1:1-3 - Opening verses of the Book of Acts  
1 Corinthians 15 - Jesus appearing to over 500 people  
Luke 24:44-49 - Jesus opening understanding of the Scriptures and promise of the Father  
John 20:22 - Jesus breathing on disciples, "receive the Holy Spirit"  
Luke 11:9-13 - Ask, seek, knock; Father giving the Holy Spirit  
John 14:12-21 - Another Helper/Comforter; Spirit dwelling with and in you  
Luke 3:15-16 - John the Baptist declaring Jesus will baptize with Holy Spirit and fire  
Matthew 24:36 - No one knows the day or hour  
Acts 1:4-8 - Wait for promise; baptized with Holy Spirit; receive power  
John 10:27 - "My sheep hear my voice"  
Luke 3:21-22 - Jesus' baptism; Holy Spirit descending upon Him  
John 1:30-34 - John's testimony of Spirit descending and remaining on Jesus  
Exodus 29:1-7 - Consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests  
1 Corinthians 14:33 - God is not the author of confusion  
Isaiah 40 - (Alluded to) John as forerunner  
John 3:16 - (Alluded to) "For God so loved the world"

### Additional References for Context:

The sermon also references these passages in the broader discussion:  
Acts 2 - (Mentioned as upcoming) Pentecost and baptism with Holy Spirit  
Acts 4, 8, 9, 10, 13, 19 - (Mentioned as upcoming) Multiple instances of Holy Spirit baptism throughout Acts  
1 Corinthians 14 - (Alluded to) Doing all things decently and in order

### Suggested Verses for Main Themes:

Based on the sermon's emphasis on the baptism with the Holy Spirit, these additional verses align with the themes:

Acts 2:1-4 - The Day of Pentecost  
Acts 8:14-17 - Samaritans receiving the Holy Spirit  
Acts 10:44-48 - Holy Spirit falls on Cornelius' household  
Acts 19:1-6 - Disciples at Ephesus receiving the Holy Spirit  
Romans 8:9-11 - The Spirit dwelling in believers  
Ephesians 5:18 - Be filled with the Spirit  
Galatians 5:16-25 - Walk in the Spirit



## Quotes

The book of Acts begins with the birth of the church and covers the first 30 years, maybe even 35 years of church history. His church began with the baptism of his Holy Spirit and it continues to this day by the baptism with his Holy Spirit.

To his assembled disciples, newly born again, freshly indwelt by his Holy Spirit, Jesus had one command: Wait. What was this promise of the Father he speaks of?

Jesus is introducing here the possibility of a third relationship with His Holy Spirit subsequent to being born again, which He presents as an absolute necessity, not only for ministry service, but also for living the Christian life and being victorious over the flesh.

Does his church need power? Then his church needs the baptism with his Holy Spirit. Do individual born-again believers need power to be witnesses to Jesus in their Jerusalem and in their Judea and in their Samaria and to the ends of the earth? Then individual born-again believers need the baptism with his Holy Spirit.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is said by Jesus to be the upon relationship with his Holy Spirit. The par relationship is believed, the indwelling relationship is received based on belief, and this upon relationship with his Holy Spirit is both believed and received by his disciples.

I can only conclude that Satan considers the baptism with the Holy Spirit to be a great threat to his kingdom here on earth. And so Satan has gone to great lengths to confuse the issue.

I received a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit before I came on stage today and I do so every single Sunday morning and every single Wednesday evening because I know I can't do it. I require the fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit in order to perform ministry.

What happens when you're baptized with the Holy Spirit? It gets on everybody around you. That's what God had in mind.



## Discussion Questions

How does understanding the three relationships with the Holy Spirit (para, en, and epi) change your perspective on your own spiritual journey and daily walk with Christ?

Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit before beginning their ministry. What does this teach us about attempting to serve God in our own strength versus His power?

Why do you think Satan has worked so hard to create confusion around the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and what might this reveal about its importance for believers today?

The sermon emphasizes that the early church began with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How might churches today look different if they fully embraced this doctrine and experience?

Jesus presented Himself for water baptism not for repentance but to fulfill the pattern of priestly ordination. What does this teach us about the significance of following God's established patterns even when we don't fully understand them?

If the apostles who walked with Jesus for three and a half years still needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively, what does this say about our own need for this empowerment?

The pastor mentions that being baptized with the Holy Spirit is like being immersed in water—it gets on everyone around you. How have you seen this principle demonstrated in the lives of Spirit-filled believers you know?

How might your witness in your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth be different if you actively sought and received fresh fillings of the Holy Spirit?

What fears or misconceptions about the baptism with the Holy Spirit might be holding you or others back from seeking this empowerment that Jesus clearly commanded?

The sermon states that without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, churches risk becoming Christian social organizations rather than Spirit-empowered communities. What practical steps can believers take to ensure their church maintains its spiritual power across generations?



## Small Group Guide: The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

*Based on Acts 1:1-8*

### **Opening Prayer**

*Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit and to remove any confusion or fear surrounding this doctrine.*

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### **Ice Breaker**

*Share a time when you felt powerless to accomplish something on your own. What did you learn from that experience?*

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### **Key Takeaways**

#### **1. Three Relationships with the Holy Spirit**

- **Para (Alongside):** The Holy Spirit convicting us of sin before salvation
- **En (Indwelling):** The Holy Spirit dwelling within us at salvation (John 20:22)
- **Epi (Upon):** The baptism with the Holy Spirit for power in ministry and witnessing

#### **2. The Purpose of the Baptism**

*Jesus commands believers to receive power (dunamis) to be His witnesses in:*

- Jerusalem (your home, family, workplace)
- Judea (your neighborhood)
- Samaria (your broader community)
- The ends of the earth (missions and global outreach)

#### **3. Jesus' Example**

*Jesus Himself was baptized with the Holy Spirit at age 30 before beginning His ministry, demonstrating this is not optional but essential for effective service.*

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## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding the Text**

1. **Why did Jesus command His disciples to "wait" before beginning their ministry?** What does this teach us about attempting ministry in our own strength?
2. **Read John 14:16-17.** How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit's relationship with believers? What's the difference between the Spirit being "with you" and "in you"?
3. **In Acts 1:8, Jesus says "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."** What kind of power is Jesus referring to? How is this different from human ability or talent?

### **Personal Reflection**

4. **Can you identify times when you've experienced the Holy Spirit "alongside" you (before salvation), "indwelling" you (at salvation), and potentially "upon" you (baptism with the Spirit)?** Share your story.
5. **The pastor mentioned that Satan has confused this doctrine through abuse (some acting weird) and refusal (most denying it).** Have you encountered either of these extremes? How has that affected your understanding?
6. **Jesus said "My sheep hear my voice and follow me" (John 10:27).** If following Jesus means doing what He did, and He was baptized with the Spirit before ministry, what does that mean for us?

### **Application**

7. **The sermon emphasized that the baptism with the Holy Spirit gives power to:**
  - Be witnesses for Christ
  - Resist temptation
  - Live victoriously over the flesh
8. **Which of these areas do you most need power in right now?**
9. **The pastor shared that he receives a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit before every ministry opportunity.** What would it look like for you to seek this fresh filling regularly in your



daily life?

10. **Read Luke 11:9-13.** Jesus promises that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. Have you ever simply asked God to baptize you with His Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
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## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge**

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Ask Daily:** Each morning this week, begin your day by asking God to baptize you with His Holy Spirit for that day's opportunities and challenges.
  2. **Study the Pattern:** Read through the book of Acts and highlight every instance where the Holy Spirit empowers believers (chapters 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 13, 19). Journal what you observe.
  3. **Identify Your Mission Field:** Write down specific people or situations in your "Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria" where you need Holy Spirit power to be a witness.
  4. **Remove Obstacles:** If fear, confusion, or past negative experiences have kept you from seeking the baptism with the Holy Spirit, spend time in prayer asking God to remove those barriers.
  5. **Step of Faith:** If you've never received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, take time this week to ask God for this gift in simple, childlike faith.
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## **Closing Exercise**

### **Group Prayer Time:**

- Have each person share one specific area where they need the power of the Holy Spirit
  - Pray for one another, asking God to baptize each person with His Holy Spirit
  - Thank God for His willingness to give this gift to all who ask (Luke 11:13)
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## Memory Verse

**Acts 1:8** - *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

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## Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue in Acts chapter 1, examining Jesus' ascension and the disciples' preparation for Pentecost. Come prepared to discuss how waiting on God prepares us for His purposes.

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## Additional Resources

- Review the church's supported missionaries mentioned in the sermon (Yanchi and Meli in Hungary, John and Steffi in Ukraine, the Birds in Haiti, Sal and Elena Massa in India)
  - Consider how you might pray for or support these "ends of the earth" ministries
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## Leader's Notes

- Be sensitive to different backgrounds and experiences with the Holy Spirit
- Emphasize that the baptism with the Holy Spirit should result in Christ-like behavior, not bizarre or disorderly conduct
- Create a safe space for honest questions and doubts
- Point people back to Scripture as the authority on this doctrine
- Be prepared to pray with individuals who want to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit



## Daily Devotional

# 5-Day Devotional: Empowered by the Holy Spirit

## Day 1: The Promise of Power

**Reading:** Acts 1:1-8; Luke 24:44-49

**Devotional:** Jesus commanded His disciples to wait—not to strategize, organize, or mobilize, but simply to wait for the promise of the Father. These men had walked with Jesus for three and a half years, witnessed His miracles, and heard His teachings, yet Jesus told them they could accomplish nothing without the Holy Spirit's power. How humbling! Before rushing into ministry or service, we too must wait upon the Lord. The Christian life isn't about our abilities, education, or enthusiasm—it's about His power working through surrendered vessels. Today, ask yourself: Am I trying to serve God in my own strength, or am I waiting for His empowering presence? The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you. Don't move forward without it.

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## Day 2: Three Relationships with the Holy Spirit

**Reading:** John 14:12-20; John 20:19-23

**Devotional:** Scripture reveals three distinct relationships with the Holy Spirit: alongside (para), indwelling (en), and upon (epi). Before salvation, the Spirit works alongside us, convicting us of sin and drawing us to Christ. At salvation, He indwells us, sealing our redemption. But there's more—Jesus speaks of being baptized with the Holy Spirit, an empowering that comes upon believers for service and witness. This isn't about salvation; it's about power for ministry and victorious Christian living. Many believers stop at the indwelling and never experience the fullness of the Spirit's power. Like the disciples who were already born again when Jesus breathed on them, yet still needed Pentecost, we need fresh fillings of God's Spirit. Are you satisfied with just enough of God to be saved, or do you hunger for all He offers?

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## Day 3: Jesus, Our Pattern

**Reading:** Luke 3:21-22; Exodus 29:1-7

**Devotional:** Why did the sinless Son of God submit to baptism? He was fulfilling the pattern of priestly ordination. Just as Aaron was washed with water and anointed with oil, Jesus was baptized in water and anointed with the Holy Spirit. The oil poured upon the Old Testament priest's head pictured what happened when the Spirit descended and remained upon Jesus. This wasn't a symbolic drip—it was an immersion, a complete covering. Jesus, our Great High Priest, modeled what we need: the Spirit's empowerment for



ministry. He did no miracles before this moment. Even the Son of God required the Spirit's anointing to accomplish His mission. How much more do we? Following Jesus means following His pattern—water baptism as a testimony, and Spirit baptism as empowerment for service.

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## Day 4: Witnesses in Every Circle

**Reading:** Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20

**Devotional:** "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Notice the concentric circles of witness: your home, your neighborhood, your region, and the world. This isn't a suggestion—it's the result of Holy Spirit baptism. When you're immersed in the Spirit, His presence overflows onto everyone around you, just like water from baptism gets on those who embrace the newly baptized. You cannot keep this power to yourself; it splashes onto your family, coworkers, neighbors, and beyond. But here's the question: Do you have anything to splash? Are you empowered to be a witness, or are you trying to testify in your own strength? God hasn't called you to be a witness in your own power. He's called you to receive His power and then watch what He does through you.

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## Day 5: Fresh Filling for Fresh Challenges

**Reading:** Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:23-31

**Devotional:** Pentecost wasn't a one-time event. Throughout Acts, believers—including those who were at Pentecost—received fresh baptisms of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 4, after Peter and John were threatened, the church prayed, and "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." Peter, who was filled at Pentecost, needed a fresh filling for a fresh challenge. This is the pattern for victorious Christian living: continual dependence on the Spirit's power. You don't coast on yesterday's filling. Every ministry opportunity, every temptation to overcome, every witness you bear requires fresh power. The good news? God's supply is limitless. He doesn't ration His Spirit. The question isn't whether He's willing to fill you—it's whether you're willing to be filled. Today, ask for a fresh baptism. Ask for power to resist sin and strength to witness boldly. He's waiting to pour out His Spirit upon you.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You that Your gifts and calling in my life are irrevocable. Restore me to my first love, teach me to obey rather than rely on my own understanding, help me receive and give Your unconditional love, and keep my eyes fixed on You alone. I choose to follow You. Amen.