



Summary

This powerful teaching takes us deep into Acts chapter 1, verse 9, where Jesus reveals a transformative truth: being born again is essential for salvation, but there's an additional empowerment available for effective witness. We discover three distinct relationships with the Holy Spirit—the 'alongside' relationship, the 'indwelling' relationship at salvation, and the 'upon' relationship for power. The Greek word 'dunamis' gives us our word 'dynamite,' pointing to explosive spiritual power. What's remarkable is how the early church unfolded exactly as Jesus predicted—from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the ends of the earth—and how this same pattern applies to our lives today. We explore compelling Old Testament examples showing the Holy Spirit coming upon individuals like Gideon, Samson, and David for specific purposes, then departing. But here's the beautiful difference for us: because we're indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we can ask for fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit whenever we need it. This isn't about salvation—that's secure through faith in Christ—but about receiving power to resist temptation, maintain Christ-like character, and be effective witnesses. The question isn't how much of the Holy Spirit we can have, but how much of us does the Holy Spirit have? When we face witnessing opportunities or spiritual battles, we can humbly ask Jesus, the baptizer with the Holy Spirit, for fresh empowerment. This teaching challenges us to move beyond our own willpower and tap into divine power for the Christian life.





Points

Title: The Empowering Upon: Understanding the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the doctrine of the baptism with the Holy Spirit as a subsequent experience to salvation, distinct from the indwelling relationship believers receive at conversion. The pastor examines Acts 1:8 and Jesus's teaching about receiving power when the Holy Spirit comes "upon" believers, enabling them to be effective witnesses for Christ. The message emphasizes that while believers are saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, they need repeated fresh baptisms with the Holy Spirit for empowerment in ministry, witness, and resisting temptation. Drawing from Old Testament examples and multiple New Testament accounts, the sermon argues that this empowering relationship can be requested whenever the Holy Spirit prompts believers to ask for it, providing supernatural power to maintain Christ-like character and effectively share the gospel.

Key Points:

- Three distinct relationships with the Holy Spirit: "para" (alongside), "en" (indwelling at salvation), and "epi" (upon for empowerment)
- The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not essential for salvation but necessary for effective witness and ministry
- Jesus commanded His already-born-again disciples to wait for the baptism with the Holy Spirit before beginning ministry
- The purpose of Spirit baptism is to receive power (dunamis) to be witnesses in concentric circles: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth
- Old Testament examples show the Holy Spirit came "upon" individuals for specific purposes and did not remain permanently
- Multiple baptisms with the Holy Spirit are biblical—Peter received it at Pentecost (Acts 2) and again in Acts 4
- Believers can and should ask for fresh baptisms with the Holy Spirit whenever prompted by the indwelling Spirit
- The baptism with the Holy Spirit provides power to resist temptation, maintain Christ-like character, and be effective witnesses
- The question is not how much of the Holy Spirit can you have, but how much of you does the Holy Spirit have

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 1:4-8 (primary focus)
- John 14:27
- Acts 2 (Day of Pentecost)
- Acts 4:29-31 (believers filled again)
- Acts 8:14-17 (Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit)



- Acts 9:4-6, 17 (Paul's conversion and filling)
- Acts 10:44-48 (Cornelius and Gentiles)
- Acts 19:1-6 (Ephesian disciples)
- Luke 11:9-13 (asking for the Holy Spirit)
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (temptation and escape)
- Ephesians 4:25-32 (not grieving the Holy Spirit)
- Numbers 11:16-17, 27-29 (Spirit upon the 70 elders and Moses)
- Judges 6:34; 13:25; 15:14 (Spirit upon Gideon and Samson)
- 1 Samuel 10:6; 16:13 (Spirit upon Saul and David)

Stories:

- Jesus's ascension and final instructions to His disciples about waiting for the baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Peter's transformation from frailty to powerful preaching at Pentecost, resulting in 3,000 conversions
- The early church praying in Acts 4 and being filled again with the Holy Spirit, including Peter who had already been baptized at Pentecost
- Old Testament examples: Bezalel and Aholiab filled with the Spirit for artistic work on the tabernacle; the 70 elders and Moses receiving the Spirit; Balaam the Gentile prophet; Gideon, Samson, Samuel, Saul, and David receiving the Spirit for leadership and service
- The Samaritans who believed and were baptized but had not yet received the Holy Spirit until Peter and John prayed for them
- Paul's conversion on the Damascus road and subsequent filling with the Holy Spirit through Ananias
- The Ephesian disciples who were baptized in John's baptism but then received the Holy Spirit when Paul laid hands on them
- Cornelius and the Gentiles receiving both salvation and Spirit baptism simultaneously, demonstrating God's acceptance of Gentiles



Scripture

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References

Acts (Primary Focus)

- Acts 1:4-5 - The promise of the Father and baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 1:8 - Receiving power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you
- Acts 1:9 - Jesus' ascension
- Acts 2 - Day of Pentecost (general reference)
- Acts 2:16-20 - Peter's confirmation of Joel's prophecy
- Acts 2:41 - 3,000 souls added to the church
- Acts 4:29-31 - Prayer for boldness and being filled with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 8:14-17 - Samaritans receiving the Holy Spirit
- Acts 9:4-6 - Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus
- Acts 9:17 - Ananias laying hands on Paul to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 10:44-48 - Cornelius and household receiving the Holy Spirit
- Acts 13:9 - Paul filled with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 19:1-6 - Ephesian disciples receiving the Holy Spirit

John's Gospel

- John 14:27 - The Holy Spirit alongside (para) and within (en)

Luke's Gospel

- Luke 11:9-13 - Ask, seek, knock; Father giving the Holy Spirit
- Luke 16:19-31 - Story of the rich man and Lazarus (Abraham's bosom)

Old Testament References

- Exodus 31:1-6 - Bezalel filled with the Spirit of God
- Numbers 11:16-17 - Spirit upon the 70 elders and Moses
- Numbers 11:27-29 - Eldad and Medad prophesying
- Numbers 24:1-2 - Spirit of God upon Balaam
- Numbers 27:18 - Joshua, a man in whom is the Spirit
- Judges 6:34 - Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon
- Judges 13:25 - Spirit of the Lord began to move upon Samson
- Judges 15:14 - Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Samson
- 1 Samuel 3:19 - Samuel established as prophet
- 1 Samuel 10:6 - Spirit of the Lord will come upon Saul
- 1 Samuel 16:13 - Spirit of the Lord came upon David
- Isaiah 59:21 - God's covenant: "My Spirit who is upon you"



- Ezekiel 2:1-2 - Spirit entered Ezekiel
- Ezekiel 3:24 - Spirit entered Ezekiel again
- 1 Chronicles 12:18 - Spirit came upon (clothed) Amasa
- 2 Chronicles 20:14-15 - Spirit of the Lord upon Jehaziel
- Joel 2:28-32 - Promise of the Spirit being poured out

New Testament Epistles

- Romans 7 - Paul's struggle with sin (general reference)
- Romans 8 - No condemnation in Christ Jesus (general reference)
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 - Warning against falling; God provides way of escape
- 1 Corinthians 12:3 - No one calls Jesus Lord except by the Spirit
- Ephesians 4:7-10 - Christ leading captivity captive
- Ephesians 4:25-32 - Putting away sin; not grieving the Holy Spirit
- Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever
- James 4:7 - Resist the devil and he will flee (paraphrased)
- 1 Peter 3:18-20 - Christ preaching to spirits in prison

Other References

- Matthew 12 - Sign of Jonah; three days and nights in the heart of the earth (general reference)

Main Themes and Supporting Verses

Theme: Three Relationships with the Holy Spirit

- Para (alongside): John 14:17
- En (indwelling): John 14:17
- Epi (upon): Acts 1:8

Theme: Power for Witness

- Acts 1:8 (primary text)

Theme: Repeated Fillings with the Holy Spirit

- Galatians 5:16-25 - Walk in the Spirit



Quotes

The clear teaching of Jesus in verse eight of the book of Acts chapter one is the believer indwelt with the Holy Spirit also requires the baptism by Jesus with the Holy Spirit to be a witness, a martyr, a martus, to Christ.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is universally effective in every culture in the world to provide a witness to Christ in every culture. The same gospel that is so effective in changing the lives and the hearts of the American people also works in those far flung places.

Being killed doesn't make you a martyr, it proves you were a martyr all along, a witness.

Since we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we can ask for a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit by Jesus any time the Holy Spirit indwelling us prompts us to ask for it. Why? Because we need it.

The question is not how much of the Holy Spirit can you have. But how much of you does the Holy Spirit have?

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not an essential doctrine of salvation, it is not. But it is a necessary doctrine for the empowering of the one who is saved.

To be a witness to Christ means continuing in the character of Christ in the midst of temptation and spiritual attack. Can a fresh baptism by Jesus with the Holy Spirit be our way of escape?

The Holy Spirit upon us shall be the witness of the Holy Spirit within us. And we can ask for the baptism with the Holy Spirit anytime and every time the Holy Spirit within us prompts us to ask for it.



Discussion Questions

How does the distinction between the Holy Spirit being 'alongside' (para), 'within' (en), and 'upon' (epi) us change your understanding of your relationship with God?

Why do you think Jesus commanded the already-born-again disciples to wait for the baptism with the Holy Spirit rather than immediately begin their ministry?

In what ways might asking for a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit before facing temptation or witnessing opportunities change the outcome of those situations?

The sermon suggests that Peter received multiple baptisms with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 and Acts 4. What does this pattern reveal about our ongoing need for God's empowering presence?

How does the Old Testament pattern of the Holy Spirit coming upon individuals for specific purposes inform our understanding of the baptism with the Holy Spirit today?

What might be grieving the Holy Spirit in your life that prevents you from experiencing the full power available to witness effectively for Christ?

The pastor asks, 'How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?' rather than 'How much of the Holy Spirit can you have?' How does this reframing challenge your approach to spiritual power?

Why do you think Satan has worked so hard to confuse the church about the doctrine of baptism with the Holy Spirit, and what are the consequences of this confusion?

If the baptism with the Holy Spirit is specifically for empowering us to be witnesses, how should this change the way we prepare for evangelistic conversations or ministry opportunities?

What fears or theological concerns might prevent someone from asking for the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and how does Scripture address those concerns?



Small Group Guide: The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Based on Acts 1:8

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to receive His truth and power.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you felt completely inadequate for a task you needed to accomplish. How did you handle it?

Key Scripture

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."

Summary of Main Points

- 1. Three Relationships with the Holy Spirit:**
 - **Para** (alongside) - John 14:27
 - **En** (indwelling) - received at salvation
 - **Epi** (upon) - the baptism with the Holy Spirit for power
- 2. The Purpose:** Empowerment to be effective witnesses for Christ
- 3. The Pattern:** The baptism with the Holy Spirit can be received multiple times as needed (see Peter in Acts 2 and Acts 4)



4. **The Availability:** We can ask for fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit whenever the Spirit prompts us
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Doctrine

1. Before this sermon, what was your understanding of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? How has this teaching challenged or expanded your perspective?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasized waiting for the baptism with the Holy Spirit as His final instruction before ascending to heaven?
3. Discuss the difference between being saved (indwelt by the Holy Spirit) and being empowered (baptized with the Holy Spirit). Why are both important?

Biblical Examples

4. Review the Old Testament examples mentioned (Bezalel, the 70 elders, Gideon, Samson, etc.). What pattern do you notice about how the Holy Spirit came "upon" them? How does this relate to New Testament believers?
5. In Acts 8:14-17, the Samaritan believers had received the word of God but had not yet received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. What does this teach us about these being separate experiences?
6. Peter received the baptism with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 and again in Acts 4. What does this tell us about how long this empowerment lasts and when we might need it again?

Personal Application

7. The sermon stated: "The question is not how much of the Holy Spirit can you have, but how much of you does the Holy Spirit have?" What does this mean to you personally?
8. Pastor Bill shared that he asks for a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit before he takes the stage to teach. In what situations in your life do you need the power of the Holy Spirit to be an



effective witness?

9. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. How might receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit help you in the specific areas Paul addresses (anger, lying, corrupt speech, bitterness, etc.)?

Witness and Character

10. The sermon emphasized that being a witness involves both character and words. How does the baptism with the Holy Spirit empower both aspects of our witness?
11. Discuss the "concentric circles" concept from Acts 1:8 (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth). What is your "Jerusalem"? Who are the people in your immediate sphere of influence who need to see Christ in you?
12. Have you ever tried to witness to someone in your own strength versus in the power of the Holy Spirit? What was the difference?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a **subsequent experience** to salvation, providing power for witness
 - ✓ This empowerment can be received **multiple times** as the Spirit prompts us to ask
 - ✓ The purpose is to make us **effective witnesses** through both character and words
 - ✓ It's not an essential doctrine for **salvation**, but it is necessary for **empowered Christian living**
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit within us prompts us to ask for the Holy Spirit **upon us**
 - ✓ This power is for **resisting temptation** and **maintaining Christ-like character**, not just for evangelism
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of these action steps:

1. **Daily Prayer Practice:** Each morning this week, ask Jesus to baptize you fresh with the Holy Spirit for whatever witness opportunities may arise that day.
2. **Identify Your Territory:** Write down the names of 5-10 people in your "Jerusalem" (10-mile radius) who need Christ. Pray for them daily and ask for the Holy Spirit's power to witness to them.
3. **Character Witness:** Choose one area from Ephesians 4:25-32 where you struggle. Each time you face temptation in that area, pause and ask for a fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit to give you power to resist.
4. **Study Further:** Read through the book of Acts this week, highlighting every instance where the Holy Spirit comes upon believers. Note the context and results.
5. **Accountability:** Share with one person in your group a specific situation where you need the power of the Holy Spirit (temptation, witness opportunity, etc.) and ask them to pray for you.

Reflection Questions for Personal Quiet Time

- *Holy Spirit, what are You prompting me to understand about this teaching?*
- *In what areas of my life am I trying to operate in my own strength rather than Your power?*
- *Who has God placed in my life that needs to see Christ through me?*
- *What fears or misconceptions have kept me from seeking the baptism with the Holy Spirit?*

Closing Prayer Points

- *Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit at salvation*
- *Ask Jesus to baptize each group member fresh with the Holy Spirit*
- *Pray for boldness to be witnesses in your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*
- *Pray for power to maintain Christ-like character in the midst of temptation*



- *Ask for divine appointments to share the gospel this week*
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For Next Week

Encourage group members to come prepared to share any experiences they had this week when they asked for and received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, or when they witnessed in the power of the Spirit.

Additional Resources

- *Read: Acts 1-4 (the foundation for this teaching)*
- *Study: John 14-16 (Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit)*
- *Reflect on: Luke 11:9-13 (asking for the Holy Spirit)*





Daily Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Empowered for Witness

Day 1: The Promise of Power

Reading: Acts 1:4-8; Luke 11:9-13

Devotional: Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for "the promise of the Father" —the baptism with the Holy Spirit. This wasn't optional; it was essential for their mission. Notice that these were already born-again believers, yet Jesus insisted they needed additional power to be effective witnesses. The Holy Spirit's "upon" relationship (epi) differs from His indwelling presence. It's the dunamis—dynamic power—that transforms timid followers into bold proclaimers. Like Peter before Pentecost, we may know Christ yet lack power to witness effectively. God desires to give this gift to those who ask. The question isn't how much of the Holy Spirit you can have, but how much of you does the Holy Spirit have? Today, consider: Are you attempting to witness in your own strength, or are you willing to ask for fresh empowerment?

Day 2: Multiple Fillings, Ongoing Power

Reading: Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:29-31

Devotional: Peter received the baptism with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, yet Acts 4:31 records that "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" again—including Peter. The Greek word pletho means "reduplicated," indicating a repeated filling. This reveals a vital truth: the baptism with the Holy Spirit isn't a one-time event that lasts forever. Like Old Testament figures upon whom the Spirit came for specific purposes, we need fresh empowerment for ongoing witness opportunities. Before every teaching, every challenging conversation, every temptation, we can ask Jesus—the baptizer with the Holy Spirit—for fresh power. The Holy Spirit within you prompts you to ask for the Holy Spirit upon you. This isn't about getting more of God; it's about surrendering more of yourself to His power.

Day 3: Witnesses in Word and Character

Reading: Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Ephesians 4:25-32

Devotional: Being a witness (martus) means more than speaking about Christ—it encompasses maintaining Christ-like character amid temptation and spiritual attack. The baptism with the Holy Spirit empowers both our words and our conduct. Paul's struggle in Romans 7—doing what he doesn't want to do—resonates with every believer. We're saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, yet we still battle our flesh. The fresh baptism with the Holy Spirit can be our "way of escape" that God promises in temptation. When the Holy Spirit clothes us with power, we can resist the devil and he will flee. This isn't willpower; it's Holy Spirit power. Consider areas where you're struggling: addiction, anger, unforgiveness, impurity. The indwelling Spirit prompts you to ask for the empowering Spirit. Don't grieve Him by refusing the help He offers.



Day 4: From Jerusalem to the Ends of the Earth

Reading: Acts 8:14-17; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-6

Devotional: Jesus outlined concentric circles of witness: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. The book of Acts unfolds exactly this way, demonstrating the universal effectiveness of Spirit-empowered witness in every culture. Your "Jerusalem" is your immediate sphere—perhaps a ten-mile radius around your church. Your "Judea" extends further, your "Samaria" even more, and missionaries carry the gospel worldwide. Notice in Acts 8 that the Samaritan believers had "received the word of God" (they were born again) but had not yet received the Holy Spirit's empowering. Peter and John prayed specifically for this second experience. Whether simultaneous (Acts 10) or subsequent (Acts 8, 19), the baptism with the Holy Spirit remains distinct from salvation. Where is your mission field today? Ask for power to witness effectively there.

Day 5: Humility to Receive What God Offers

Reading: James 4:6-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Acts 9:1-17

Devotional: It takes humility to ask for power beyond what you already possess. Many believers say, "I received all the Holy Spirit I need when I was saved." While salvation is complete and eternal, Jesus clearly taught that His already-saved disciples needed additional empowerment to fulfill their calling. Paul's conversion on the Damascus road was distinct from Ananias later laying hands on him "that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord. Resist the enemy—not in your own strength, but clothed with the Holy Spirit's power. Today is the day of salvation for some; for others, it's the day to receive fresh empowerment. You're only one heartbeat from eternity. Don't let confusion, tradition, or pride prevent you from receiving all God desires to give you. Ask, and you shall receive.

