

## The Work of the Spirit

### Acts 1

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**6** Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**7** He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**9** After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

These are the last words Jesus says to his disciples while in their presence, proving how urgent and important they were.

Jesus gives insight and indication; **Vs. 4,5** “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the gift my Father promised.”

- The first gift we receive from the Father is Jesus. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.”
- The second gift after Jesus is the Holy Spirit...

**At the Birth of Jesus, God was manifest in the flesh...**

**On the Day of Pentecost, God was manifest in Spirit and Power...**

- **Vs. 3** tells us “He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.”
- On the Jewish Calendar the 50th day after the Feast of Firstfruits was Pentecost.
- The Day of Pentecost is also referred to as the Feast of Weeks, and Shavuot.
- The Feast of Weeks is the second of the three “solemn feasts” that all Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem for.
- Each of three “solemn feasts”—Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles—required that all able-bodied Jewish males travel to Jerusalem to attend the feast and offer sacrifices. All three of these feasts required that “firstfruit” offerings be made at the temple as a way of expressing thanksgiving for God’s provision.
- The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) was in celebration of the first fruits of the wheat harvest.
- Since the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) was one of the “harvest feasts,” the Jews were commanded to “present an offering of new grain to the Lord” ([Leviticus 23:16](#))

## **How this relates to the timeline we understand.**

- 1. Jesus is the Passover lamb, crucified on Passover**
- 2. Jesus rose from the grave during Feast of Firstfruits.** Therefore he is called the firstfruits of the resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:20
- 3. Jesus then spent 40 days with the disciples and ascended 10 days before Pentecost.**

Leading up to the day of Pentecost Jesus says these words;

**4** ...“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

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**8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- The Church is not yet birthed...
- But God has a plan for how he will birth it...
- You will receive...

Oh Lord give us a fresh season of Receiving....

May we never forget that our Salvation is not the result of our trying...

Our Redemption and Transformation is not the work of our doing...

It is the result of Faith in Jesus and Receiving from Him...

- The Church will not be born by marketing strategy, Church planting strategy or crafted professional leaders...
- The Church is be born out of the raw experience of receiving power from on high...
- Christianity is not the result of Religious Study...
- Christianity is the result of an Event... The Resurrection of Jesus
- The Christian Church is the result of the Holy Spirit Experience...
- It is birthed in Power...

## Acts 1

**12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. **13** When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. **14** They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

**15** In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

- The Apostles and the 120 joined together constantly in prayer with expectation of the unexpected...
- I have to believe there was an eagerness on the inside for what God was about to do...
- A spiritual hunger for what Jesus spoke of, "the Promise of the Father"...
- They must have anticipated, from what they had already seen, something might happen on the day of Pentecost...

## Acts 2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from

heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- When God is moving you can sense it, it is not the work of man, it is the work of God...

**Vs. 2** “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.”

- When God is moving it is beyond you...
- There is eagerness and excitement...
- It feels like the current of a river...
- It is the expected, unexpected...
  
- When we were at the Assemblies of God World Prayer a couple weeks back. I felt the Holy Spirit, it was as if he was saying to me, “People are empty”.
  
- I believe we are living in the day when people are trying to fill the emptiness with something. Sex, Drugs, Attention, Relationships. The enemy has plagued our generation with Gender confusion, Sexual disorientation, the list goes on and on. People are growing more and more unsatisfied.
  
- These things only leave a void...
  
- What people in our generation need is what the Disciples received in Vs. 4 “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit”

There is more...

**Story:** Youth Camp, two young men out in the Spirit...

**Story:** I believe it was the Summer of 2006

## **Last Week Audra shares such a stirring message...**

- She talked about what the bible says regarding the last days...
- (In the last days there will be terrible times...) 2 Tim. 3
- (For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom) Matt. 24
- But in the midst of the difficult God promises something

**Acts 2:17** “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...

- (That Peter was warned by Jesus to pray, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and he failed)
- Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and was used by God...

## **Quote from Audra's notes:**

When Peter moved in the power of the world, he only cut off ears. But when he was filled with the Spirit, using the Word of God, Peter pierced hearts for God's glory (Acts 2:37).

- Audra talked about the need for Prayer, that every great revival was linked to prayer...
- That for Revival we must press into God and live Holy...

## **All of this is the Work of the Spirit**

to Pray

to be a Witness

to live Holy

- it's hard to pray without the Holy Spirit...
- It's hard to be a witness without the Holy Spirit...
- It's impossible to live holy without the Holy Spirit
- With the Holy Spirit it is easy to pray...
- With the Holy Spirit it is easy to be a witness...
- With the Holy Spirit you become aware of the spiritual nature of things and holiness is the personality of the Holy Spirit...

**Story:** When I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit two things overwhelmed me.

1. God forgive me for doubting you...
2. I don't want this feeling to end...

## **This is the Work of the Spirit**

That we experience God

- When God is moving Expect the Unexpected

## **Acts 10**

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. **24** The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. **25** As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. **26** But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

**27** While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. **28** He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. **29** So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

**30** Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me **31** and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. **32** Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' **33** So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

**34** Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **36** You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37** You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

**39** “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, **40** but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41** He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. **45** The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. **46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Peter asked the question in Vs. 29 “May I ask why you sent for me?”

Cornelius gave a good answer, but I believe the could be summed up like this; God is moving in our hearts and we are hungry for more...

Peter shared a good message, the message he knew he should share, but while he was sharing something unexpected happened...



Vs. 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message...

- This is the Work of the Holy Spirit...
- A deep spiritual Hunger for God, like what happened in Cornelius's house, is the Work of the Holy Spirit...
- The Holy Spirit is unlimited in what he can do...

### **John 3**

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

### **This is the Work of the Spirit**

to Pray

to Be a Witness

to live Holy

to experience God

to Hunger for more of Him

- The Holy Spirit is unlimited in what he can do...
- When God moves we can expect the unexpected...