



## **Jason Smith - Filled: A Journey from Pentecost**

### **Week 5: The Spirit's Power and Purpose**

We cannot fulfill God's mission in our own strength—we need the Holy Spirit. His presence guides us, His power emboldens us, and His purpose transforms hearts.

When we rely on Him, we can share the Gospel with confidence, knowing He is always at work.

The Holy Spirit is not just power for mission but the very presence of God guiding, convicting, and equipping believers.

**Main Scripture:** John 16:5-15, Acts 1:4-8

### **Introduction**

Have you ever felt completely unprepared for something important? Maybe it was a job interview, a big presentation, or even a conversation you knew would be difficult.

You knew what needed to be done, but deep down, you felt like you didn't have what it took to do it. I wonder if that's how the disciples felt in those days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost.

They had walked with Jesus, learned from Him, and even seen Him risen from the dead—but now, He was gone.

And the mission He had given them? **“Be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”**

No pressure, right? How could they possibly accomplish that?

As we discussed a few weeks ago, Jesus told them to wait—not strategize, not plan, not get ahead of themselves—but to wait for the gift the Father had promised.

Why? Because what they needed most wasn’t a better plan, more resources, or even more courage. What they needed was power—but not their own.

The very presence of God was about to dwell within them, to guide them, empower them, and transform them.

Friends, there are certain things in this life that you cannot do within your own power. Not just ministry, but the stuff of life.

And here’s the question we need to wrestle with today: **Are we trying to live the Christian life in our own strength, or are we relying on the power of the Holy Spirit?**

Because if the disciples couldn’t fulfill their calling without Him—why do we think we can?

Some people today believe that the empowerment of the Spirit was exclusively for the early NT apostles—the empowerment to launch his church.

However, people who believe that way are missing the point of the Great Commission.

Is Matthew 28:19 only for the early NT people or was it a commission intended to be a part of God’s people’s lives until he returns? I believe

it's the latter, and if that's the case, why would God give the early NT leaders the empowerment of the Spirit to carry out the mission and not both you and me today?

**Read John 16:5-7**

**<sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.**

**<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.**

Imagine being one of the disciples, standing there as Jesus tells you, ***"It is for your good that I am going away."*** How could that possibly be good?

There are people in our lives that we are so thankful when they finally leave our presence. But that's not the case in John 16.

They had walked with Jesus, talked with Him, eaten meals with Him, and seen Him perform miracles with their own eyes. How could His leaving be better than His staying?

But Jesus was pointing them to a deeper reality—one they couldn't yet fully grasp.

His physical presence was limited to one place at a time, but through the Holy Spirit, His presence would dwell within every believer, in every place, at every moment.

No longer would they have to wait for Jesus to arrive in a town or gather around Him on a hillside.

**The Spirit would be with them always**, guiding them, strengthening them, and speaking truth into their hearts.

This wasn't a new idea. All throughout Scripture, God had promised His people that He would be with them.

In Isaiah 41:10, He says, ***“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.”***

In Ezekiel 36:26-27, God foretells the coming of the Spirit: ***“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”***

***And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees.”***

This was always the plan—God dwelling not just among His people, but within them. And now, Jesus was declaring that this promise was about to be fulfilled.

And yet, even now, we struggle to embrace the reality of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We long for something visible, something tangible—something like the disciples had when they walked with Jesus in the flesh.

We say things like, “If only I could have been there to see Him,” or “If only I could hear His voice out loud.”

But Jesus Himself tells us that we have something even better: the Holy Spirit, who lives in us, leads us, comforts us, and empowers us.

The question is, are we relying on Him, or are we still trying to follow Jesus in our own strength?

**The Spirit's Power: Boldness for the Mission**

## Read Acts 1:4-8

<sup>4</sup> And while staying<sup>[a]</sup> with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

<sup>8</sup> 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.”

Let’s go back to the question I asked at first: **Have you ever felt completely unprepared for something important?**

Maybe you’ve hesitated to share your faith, to pray for someone in need, or to step out in obedience because you felt weak or unprepared.

Imagine how the disciples felt.

Jesus had just given them the most daunting mission imaginable—to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). And yet, His very next instruction was to wait.

***“Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised”*** (Acts 1:4). Why? Because they could not fulfill this mission on their own.

The task was too great, and their own strength was not enough. But Jesus promised them something greater: ***“You will receive power when***

***the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses***” (Acts 1:8).

**Before they could go, they had to be filled.**

This power was the very presence of God, equipping them for the work ahead. **The word Jesus used for power is *dynamis*, the same root word for *dynamite*.**

This was explosive, life-altering power—the kind that turned fishermen into preachers, doubters into evangelists, and a fearful man like Peter into the boldest voice of the early Church.

This was the power that allowed ordinary men and women to stand before rulers and authorities, facing persecution and even death, yet refusing to back down.

And it is the same power that is available to us today. Paul reminds us in 2 Timothy 1:7, ***“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.”***

The Spirit doesn’t just give us comfort—He gives us courage.

And yet, too often, we try to serve God in our own strength. We attempt to be good enough, knowledgeable enough, or persuasive enough on our own.

But Jesus never intended for us to carry this mission in our own power. He told His disciples to wait because He knew they needed something more.

The question is—are we waiting on the Spirit’s power, or are we trying to do God’s work in our own strength? Are we living with boldness, or are we still afraid?

If we want to be witnesses for Christ, we need what the early Church had—we need to be filled, empowered, and emboldened by the Holy Spirit.

## Testimony – My encounter with the HS

### **The Spirit's Purpose: Convicting and Transforming Hearts**

Read John 16:8-11

**<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

Have you ever tried to change someone's mind about something important?

Maybe you've had a conversation with a friend or family member about faith, and no matter how clearly you explained the Gospel, they just didn't seem to get it.

It can be frustrating, right? But Jesus reminds us that the work of conviction and transformation is not ours—it belongs to the Holy Spirit.

In John 16:8, Jesus says, ***"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment."***

It is the Spirit who softens hearts, opens blind eyes, and leads people to repentance. Our role is to proclaim the truth, but only the Spirit can make it take root.

This truth was on full display at Pentecost. (Next week!) Peter, the same man who had once been too afraid to admit he even knew Jesus, now stood boldly before a massive crowd and preached his first sermon.

And the response? ***“They were cut to the heart”*** (Acts 2:37). Not because Peter was an exceptional speaker, but because the Spirit was at work.

That day, 3,000 people repented and were baptized—not by human persuasion, but by divine power.

The same Spirit that convicted them is the same Spirit that moves today, stirring hearts and calling people into relationship with Christ.

That means we don’t have to carry the burden of changing people. We simply bear witness, and the Spirit does the rest.

So what does this mean for us?

It means we can share our faith without fear. We can speak the truth without worrying if we have the perfect words.

We can pray for our lost loved ones, trusting that God is working even when we can’t see it.

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul reminds us, ***“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”***

**Our job is faithfulness; God’s job is transformation.**

When we trust the Spirit’s power to convict and change hearts, we can confidently share the Gospel, knowing that He is always working behind the scenes.

**Conclusion**



As we reflect on Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, we see that He is not only our Helper and Guide, but also our source of power and the One who brings transformation.

The Spirit's presence reassures us that we are never alone. His power emboldens us to live out our faith with confidence.

His purpose reminds us that salvation is ultimately God's work, not ours.

Just as the disciples had to wait for the Spirit before stepping into their mission, we, too, must rely on His presence rather than our own strength.

**The same Spirit that moved in the early Church is still moving today,** equipping and empowering us to be faithful witnesses of Christ.

Next week, we arrive at the turning point of this journey—Pentecost. The day when fire fell, the Church was born, and the mission of Jesus truly began to spread to the ends of the earth.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit changed everything, and it still changes everything for us today.

Let us ask ourselves: Are we truly open to the Spirit's work in our lives?

Are we ready to step forward in boldness, trusting in His power?

Let's pray together.