Unleashing the Power of the Holy Spirit

Clothed with Power

I. Clothed with Power

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Fulfilled at Pentecost in Acts 2

A doorway to the “the empowered life”

Expressions of that power . . . most frequently---healing, miracles, etc. . . . an equal demonstration of “the empowered life” is ---a life transformed, having received the power to break free of the “practice of sin”

Acts 1:4-8 (NIV)

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." . . .
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."

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. . . . 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
II. Power to be Godly

A. Provision
2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)
3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

B. Holiness Empowers
Hebrews 12:14-16 (NIV)
14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

Romans 1:4 (NIV)
4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. The Help of the Spirit
Genesis 6:3 (NASB)
3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

1. challenging corruption
Matthew 24:36-39 (NIV)
36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."
Genesis 6:11-12 (NIV)
11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

Psalm 14:1-2 (NIV)
1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

2. conscience dulled
1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NIV)
1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.

Titus 1:15-16 (NIV)
15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

3. conscience cleansed
Hebrews 9:14 (NIV)
14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 10:22 (NIV)
22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water
III. Walk by the Spirit
Galatians 5:16 (NASB)
16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16-25 (NIV)
16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. (as a means of righteousness)

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.
25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
Prayer

Heavenly Father, fill me with your Spirit. Give me an understanding heart to cooperate with you. I lay aside all ungodliness that might hinder or entangle me. I forgive those who have mistreated me. Forgive me for my transgressions and willful disobedience. Cleanse me that I may walk uprightly before you. May I be clothed with power from on high to live a life that pleases you, in Jesus’ name, amen.