

October 22, 2023

An Invitation to the Divine: Week 3

If you live in a newer house, you may not know it, but in your bathrooms and kitchen you probably have one of these: a GFCI outlet. When there are places that water and electricity can meet, the GFCI interrupts power faster than the blink of an eye to prevent a lethal dose of electricity!

If you're a beginner DIYer, you'll probably take on a lot of projects around your house, but electricity usually gives us pause! Sometimes, **WHAT WE DON'T KNOW** about something can cause us great concern or make us hesitant!

Jesus told his disciples He had Power available to them, and don't GO without it!

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

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.

Last week I shared with you about the Power of a Promise, today I want to share with you about the Promise of POWER! What Jesus was sharing with the disciples is what we know as The Baptism in the Holy Spirit!

There may be three groups of people in the room today.

- Those that have experienced God's power through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Those that have heard about it, but know very little about it
- And those that know nothing about it

Since Jesus taught about it, we can be assured that it's nothing to be afraid of, and it's something that's obviously of God!

Chances are, if you are unsure about God's Power by the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, it's because someone has told you...

- To be afraid of it, stay away
- It's not for today, or...
- You don't need it

I. The Promise of Power

John 14:15-17 (NIV)

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives WITH you and WILL BE IN you.

John 16:7-14 (NIV)

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will

prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

We see the Work of the Holy Spirit in two ways that Jesus described...

1.) To the Sinner (vs. 8-11)

a. Convict the World of Guilt in regard to Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment

2.) To the Saint (vs 12-14)

- a. He will guide you into all Truth
- b. He is an Ambassador
- c. He is a Connector

The Holy Spirit enables God's Power (under HIS control/without fear) for maximum benefit to the world and the Church!

II. The Plan for the Power

Jesus clearly stated that he would be going away, and when He went away He would send the Holy Spirit to enable a special endowment of God's Power within us.

A. Wait for the Power (*Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)*)

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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Jesus didn't tell them to Fear the Power, He told them to wait for it and receive it!

The Plan for the Power was not just for a Personal Experience—"let me do what I want to do"—but the Power was going to be needed to spread the message of Christ until He returns.

Question: Can we do the work of the ministry without the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

It's true, the Holy Spirit is a beneficial part of the life of a believer. But the greater work is to have you filled with the power of God in your everyday life!

III. The Pronouncement of the Power

The INITIAL identification of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit we read in scripture was "the disciples Worshiping, Praising, and Speaking in a New Tongue!" The Spirit provided a Prayer Language!

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Here's the cool part to your prayer language, we don't have to learn it, the Spirit enables it!

Acts 2:5-8 (NIV)

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"

Over the years, this has caused controversy and concern from those outside the church. Truthfully because a lot of people let this Power get out of control!

The world thought what they were hearing was crazy, until they saw what it had done for the early church!

It's a NEW language! It might sound different to you, but the POWER is not in the sound your mouth makes, it's simply "the sign" that your praise has hit Turbo Mode, and it's about to take you to a whole new dimension of your Spiritual Life!

Just like Electricity, you don't have to know how it all works, you just need to know that if you use it correctly, you're not going to be hurt, or others won't be hurt. They're only going to be HELPED!

Years ago I was on a missions trip building a church. The workers on the jobsite were cutting wooden boards with a blade from a hacksaw, no hacksaw handle, just the blade. And then we unpacked our trunks and pulled out a 7¼ inch, 120 volt, Dewalt Construction-grade Rip Saw! When they saw the POWER, they got fired up! They all wanted to use it!

And in the same way, some of us are living a Christian life that CAN get the job done.

But you need to know, every Believer can have MORE Power on tap! The Holy Spirit is not just WITH us, He wants to be guiding you into a Spirit-filled life!