

# THE WIND OF CHANGE PT 5

## THE PROMISE OF POWER

### *CENTRAL QUESTION:*

*How can the power of the Holy Spirit transform broken lives and awaken the church to its true purpose?*

## I. THE UNIVERSAL NEED FOR CHANGE (00:00:00 - 00:02:34)

Key Scripture: Luke 24:49 - "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

### What We Share in Common:

- Not the way we look or dress
- Not our jobs or circumstances
- Something in our lives (or someone we love) that needs change

### Areas of Needed Change:

- Depression and oppression
- Grief and brokenness
- Daily struggle and hardship
- Family members in need of restoration
- Children needing direction
- Spouses and parents needing transformation

Reality: Everyone in the room—regardless of age or status—carries the weight of needing change.

## II. THE SERMON SERIES: WINDS OF CHANGE (00:00:46 - 00:05:04)

This is Week 5 (Final Chapter) of a Four-Week Series

### Week 1 — Living in the In-Between

- Jesus reveals His true identity to disciples in Luke 24
- They knew about Jesus but didn't fully grasp who He was

- Jesus commanded them to wait for the promise
- Key Reality: Knowing your calling but waiting for God's timing

#### Week 2 — The Command to Wait

- Jesus tells disciples to witness about Him
- They must go to Jerusalem and wait
- No one likes waiting, but waiting is essential
- Key Reality: Patience is part of God's process

#### Week 3 — Waited Upon by God

- About 120 disciples gathered in unity and prayer
- They were hungry for what God promised
- Acts 1:24 - They were willing to do God's will
- Key Reality: True hunger for God's presence leads to obedience

#### Week 4 — The Winds Beginning to Blow

- Personal illustration of a storm with wind and rain
- Physical wind brings change to nature
- Key Reality: We need the wind of God's Spirit to blow in our lives

#### Week 5 — The Promise of Power (Current Message)

- The fulfillment of God's promise in Acts 2
- Power defined as ability to direct, influence, and accomplish through the Holy Ghost
- Key Reality: The church must operate in genuine spiritual power, not empty religion

## III. PENTECOST: THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH (00:42:17 - 01:02:09)

Key Scripture: Acts 2:1-4

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as a fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The Promise Fulfilled:

- The waiting was over
- The Holy Spirit came with power
- The disciples didn't know what to expect, but they knew God kept His promise
- Key Reality: God's Word never fails; He is not slack like we are (Isaiah 55:10-11)

What Happened Next:

- Peter, once a coward who denied Jesus, stood up boldly
- He preached the gospel to the very people who killed Christ

- 3,000 people gave their hearts to Jesus in ONE DAY
- Key Reality: The power of the Holy Ghost transforms fear into boldness

## IV. THE PROBLEM: POWERLESS RELIGION (00:14:01 - 00:20:22)

Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:5 - "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"

William Booth's Prophetic Warning (Founder of the Salvation Army, 1829-1912):  
 "The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Spirit. Christianity without Christ. Forgiveness without repentance. Salvation without regeneration. Politics without God. Heaven without hell."

What We've Done Wrong:

- Become focused on buildings instead of power
- Worried about who has the biggest crowds
- Debated who's qualified to preach
- Fought over what music is proper
- Let the power of God slip right through our hands

The Result:

- Churches have become powerless
- Churches have become social clubs
- Christians claim faith but show no change
- We claim forgiveness but show no repentance
- We claim salvation but show no regeneration
- We believe in heaven but act as though there's no hell

Key Reality: When we remove the Holy Ghost, we become exactly what the enemy wants us to be—weak and watered down.

## V. THE CASCADE OF POWERLESSNESS (00:22:23 - 00:22:22)

How Weakness Spreads:

- When pulpits become cowards (afraid to preach truth)
- The pews become powerless (those listening lose faith)
- The congregation becomes powerless (people stop believing)
- The city becomes powerless (communities lose moral foundation)
- The nation becomes powerless (society crumbles)

The Shift We Need:

- When pulpits preach with power (boldly declaring God's Word)
- The pews receive power (people are transformed)
- The congregation receives power (believers take action)
- The city receives power (communities are restored)
- The nation receives power (society is renewed)

## VI. WHAT REAL POWER LOOKS LIKE (00:20:41 - 00:26:44)

Definition: Power is the ability to direct, influence, or accomplish something through the delegation of the Holy Ghost.

Example 1: Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:22)

- Before: Denied knowing Jesus three times
- After: Stood before the same crowd that killed Jesus
- Result: 3,000 converted in one day
- Key Reality: The Holy Ghost transforms cowardice into courage

Example 2: The Woman with Polio

- Confined to a wheelchair due to polio
- Asked her pastor for prayer so she could serve God
- First pastor rejected her out of fear
- Second pastor welcomed her and asked her to help in Sunday school
- Her faith: "I'm going to step out in faith and believe in the power of the Holy Ghost"
- Result: Started with 2 children, grew to 200 children, then to 30 buses carrying 2,000+ students every service within a year
- Key Reality: Broken people, filled with the Holy Ghost, can change entire communities

Key Principle: The Holy Ghost can take broken people and change them. Paul was a persecutor of Christians. Peter denied Jesus. But when filled with the Holy Ghost, they became the foundation of the church.

## VII. WHAT THE HOLY GHOST IS NOT (00:28:32 - 00:31:06)

Common Misconceptions:

- The Holy Ghost is NOT just speaking in tongues
- Tongues are a sign of the Holy Ghost, but NOT the sum total
- The Holy Ghost is NOT just shouting or emotional displays
- The Holy Ghost is NOT the music we sing
- The Holy Ghost is NOT limited to what we program in church

Reality: The Holy Ghost Himself is the power—speaking in tongues is just one manifestation.

What We've Missed:

- We put all emphasis on the visible signs (tongues, shouting)
- We ignore the transformative power in the invisible (changed hearts, restored lives)
- We've become so focused on the experience of the Holy Ghost that we've missed the transformation of the Holy Ghost

Key Reality: The sign is not the substance. The Holy Ghost produces real, lasting change in people's lives.

## VIII. TRANSFORMED LIVES: THE EVIDENCE OF POWER

(00:30:26 - 00:32:29)

Who Testifies to God's Power?

- The drug addict set free
- The liar and cheater now honest
- The depressed person now hopeful
- The broken person now restored
- The lost person now found

The Truth:

- You came in miserable; you're now happy
- You were addicted; you're now free
- You were lost; you're now saved
- You're no longer that broken person—you're who Christ wants you to be

Key Reality: Real power produces real transformation in real people.

## IX. PERSONAL TESTIMONY: THE WEIGHT LIFTED

(00:32:36 - 00:35:08)

A Pastor's Story:

- Felt a weight of oppression and depression
- It wasn't on him, but he could feel it coming
- Walked out on his back patio at 2 a.m. in despair
- Looked up at the sky and cried out: "God, I don't understand what's happening, but I do know that the God who created this universe is part of my soul. I will not go through the valley of the shadow of doubt because You have delivered me before I even got there."
- Instantly, the weight lifted and never returned

Why?

"Because there's power in the Spirit of God. There's power in the Holy Ghost."

Key Reality: The Holy Spirit is not a theory—He is a present, active force that changes lives in real time.

## X. THE CALL TO DECISION (00:35:37 - 00:37:21)

Who Needs This Message?

You're here battling:

- Depression and oppression
- Grief and loss
- Confusion and brokenness
- The weight of life's struggles
- The feeling of being "damaged goods"

God's Message to You:

- You don't have to stay broken
- The power is not in the church building or the pastor's name
- The power is in Jesus, who gave His life for you
- God is a perfect gentleman—He will not force Himself on you
- But He will knock, pull, and teach you the way of life

The Invitation:

- Come to Hope City Church
- Hear the Word
- Know that you can be delivered
- Accept the power of the Holy Ghost in your life

Key Reality: Hope is available, and deliverance is possible.

### KEY TAKEAWAY:

The Winds of Change bring the Promise of Power—the Holy Spirit's ability to transform broken lives, awaken dead churches, and restore people to their true purpose in God's kingdom. This power is not theoretical or distant; it is present, active, and available to everyone who opens their heart to receive it.

### FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- What area of your life needs change right now?
- Are you waiting for God's promise like the disciples in Acts 1?
- How has the church (or your own faith) become powerless in specific ways?
- What would it look like for the Holy Ghost to transform your life like He transformed Peter or the woman with polio?

- Are you willing to step out in faith and believe in the power of the Holy Ghost?
- What is the "broken" part of your life that God wants to restore?
- How can you invite the Holy Ghost to move in your home, workplace, and community?

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Acts 2:1-4 | Luke 24:49 | Isaiah 55:10-11 | 2 Timothy 3:5 | Acts 2:22 | Genesis 41:38 | Exodus 31:3 | Micah 3:8 | 2 Samuel 23:2 | Psalm 139:7-10"