

04 | The Power of the Holy Spirit

REACHING THE LOST Series

Well, welcome back to our series. Today's lesson, week four is one of my favorites. It's the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's read Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Listen to this, Jesus didn't expect His early disciples to carry out this commission without the Holy Spirit, and He doesn't expect us to either. But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power to be His witnesses, and that power will be with you wherever you go to testify of Him. When you receive the Holy Spirit, you receive His power. When you receive the Holy Spirit, you receive the power to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ. You receive the Holy Spirit's power to witness of our Lord Jesus Christ everywhere you go. He told His original disciples that they would go to Jerusalem, and Judea, and Samaria, and eventually it would spread to the end of the earth. That's us, here we are at the opposite end of the earth. We have the same Holy Spirit that they had. We have the same Holy Spirit that used them to turn the world upside down for the Lord Jesus Christ. The same Holy Spirit that led them to pen the Gospels and the letters that we're reading today, still, all these years later, that we live by the words of God, we have the same Holy Spirit. I want to read to you from Acts 2:36-41, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the

apostles, 'Bothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are afar off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself. And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls". There were added that one day after that one sermon, three thousand souls. This is an example of the power of the Holy Spirit. We've seen it even in some of our modern-day evangelists, standing boldly behind the pulpit, proclaiming the gospel to stadiums full of thousands of people and their impacted by the words of God. But did you know that same Holy Spirit is upon you? To impact those within your sphere of influence? Listen, it says here that Peter, he had many things to say but he also kept it simple. He said, "Repent and be baptized." Sometimes that's all people need to hear. They're living in sin. I've had conversations with people, and I just felt the Lord lead me to go there. And I said, "You know, you're living in sin, you're sinning against God and you need to repent, and you'd be surprised how many people would just say, "I know." There's something about the boldness that the Holy Spirit will cause you to speak with that convicts them. It convicts their heart. "And with many other words, he bore witness and continue to exhort them, saying, 'save yourself.'".

There's a boldness that comes with the Holy Spirit, and it gets people's attention, both believers and unbelievers. There's a boldness that comes over you to speak God's word, both in the church and in the marketplace, at your workplace, wherever you go. The same

Holy Spirit has come upon you to be witnesses to the Lord Jesus, and He will empower you and give you the words to say, and people will feel the conviction. They will feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that Jesus accompanied them with signs and wonders. As they preached the Word of God, He would confirm what they were doing with signs and wonders, that's the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is no longer here, He's seated at the right hand of the Father, but when He got there, His Holy Spirit came. The Father sent us the Holy Spirit to carry out the Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, and those who believe the works that He did will do also, and greater works than that. Jesus himself said that. The power of the Holy Spirit. it's a beautiful thing. Jude said, "I build myself up in my most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit," Paul said, "Sometimes we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Holy Spirit prays through us with groaning which cannot be uttered." The Bible says that, "He who speaks in the tongue speaks mysteries to God, and he edifies himself." The power of the Holy Spirit is so key in the life of a believer. In fact, after walking with Jesus for about three years, they left their occupations, they left their homes, their families, and they followed Jesus for three years and they ministered side by side. He taught them. He gave them authority over demons. He proved Himself with signs, wonders, and miracles. He healed the sick, caused the lame to walk, deaf ears to be opened, blind eyes to see, raised the dead. They were taught by Jesus Himself, and He modeled discipleship for them by saying, "Come on, follow me. Let Me show you how it's done." But there was coming a time when Jesus would finished His work on the earth, and He would leave the ministry that He started and modeled for us at the hands of the disciples. And He would commission them, "What I did with you, you go and do. You go and do what I did with you, and you go and make disciples, and you teach them

everything that I committed you to observe." But He said, "Before you do that, you go into the upper room and you, tarry, and you wait because the Holy Spirit is going to come. My father is going to send you the Holy Spirit." They went into the upper room, and for about ten days they waited. I'm guessing after the first couple of hours they were like, "What's going on here?" Probably looking around at each other like, "He said He was coming, right? I mean, how long are we supposed to wait?" He didn't tell them how long. He just said, "You wait, tarry. Don't you go anywhere until He comes." I can imagine lunch time came and went, now it's getting close to dinnertime. But they had walked with the Lord long enough to know if He said something, He meant it. If He said he was going to do it, He was going to do it. And day after day after day went by. Finally on the 10th day, like a mighty rushing wind, The Holy Spirit came to the earth into that room, and He rested upon each one of them, it says, like tongues of fire, and the power of God came over them and they were never the same.

They went out and turned that place upside down. You can see here, Peter preached one sermon and three thousand people got saved. I think sometimes we forget that this is the very same power that's available to us, the very same Holy Spirit that came upon them came upon us. But He came for a reason far beyond just our own personal experience, benefiting our own personal lives. Which, believe me, it's good. It's good for us. I get up every morning and I pray in the Holy Spirit every day. I read my word, and I pray in the Spirit, and I build myself up. Before I leave the house, I get alone with the Holy Spirit. I spend time with Him. He walks me through the Word. He breathes fresh on me and then I go out in the power of the Holy Spirit. But it wasn't just for me. It wasn't to help me get through my day. It wasn't to help me be a better man. I need it. I love my wife and I

want to be a good husband, but I can't do it without the help of the Lord. I can't preach this gospel right without the help of the Lord. I can't live a godly life without the help of the Lord. But it's not for me. Jesus said again, and I'll read it Acts 1:8, "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, until the end of the earth." Notice again, "The power of the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will be my witnesses." That right there is why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit who's going to convict people of their sin and their need for a Savior. It's the Holy Spirit who's going to open their eyes to the Word of God. It's the Holy Spirit who's going to reveal Jesus to them. It's the Holy Spirit who's going to lead them to repentance. We can't do the work of the Lord without the Holy Spirit. So, as we continue this series off reaching the lost, let's not forget that God Himself has sent the third person of the Trinity, whom He calls the Helper, the Comforter, the Teacher, the One who will bring to your remembrance all things that have been taught, the things that Jesus said, the things that He's written to us in His Word. The Holy Spirit will bring those things to your remembrance. He will help you. He will teach you. He will lead you and empower you. He will guide you. And He will comfort you.

There are times as a believer we're going to have to do things that make us uncomfortable. For some of us, just sharing the gospel is still a very daunting task. It's hard for us, if we're honest with ourselves, it doesn't come as natural as it should. It should be as natural as breathing. But we struggle, and it's uncomfortable, but that's why the Holy Spirit has been given the title of comforter. He will comfort you in all your afflictions, in all your trials. He will comfort you. And He will bring comfort to you when you step out in a situation that makes you feel uneasy. You'll find yourself

standing on His power. You'll feel His anointing come over you, and even when you don't, He'll be speaking through you. And you may not feel anything, but the person that you're speaking to is going to feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit as you share the truth with them. Let's not neglect the power of the Holy Spirit, because coupled with the power of the gospel, which is the power of God to salvation, that's how we're going to get this done. That's how we're going to take this gospel to the nations. That's how we're going to take the gospel to our neighbors. Some of us can't get past the person right next to us, much less be concerned with the nations. But I'll tell you what, we got it made right here, especially those of us who like myself live in Southern California. Here in America, we're surrounded by the nations, they've come to us. Sometimes making disciples of every nation is as simple as talking to the neighbor on the left and to the right, talking to your coworker, the guy that uses the same gym as you the same day every week. There are opportunities. Strike up a conversation with somebody at the gym. The waitress who takes your order, before you pay your tab and leave shake her hand and ask her, "How she's doing," and if she needs any prayer. These little things, they lead to conversations that could lead to salvation, that could lead to impacting somebody else's eternity, that can turn it around and impact others' eternity. This is a power of the Holy Spirit. He has the ability to lead you, and guide you, and empower you. And there's a boldness that comes over you when you allow Him to speak through you. People will notice it. They'll notice there's something different. There's something different about what you're saying. There's something different about what people of other faiths and religions have to say. There's a power behind what you're saying because it's God's word and it's set on fire by none other than the power of the Holy Spirit Himself. There's a truth and a power combined that can't be denied. Sadly,

some people will reject it, but at least they heard it. They heard the truth. They can hear it from you with conviction and power, the power of the Holy Spirit. That's a mighty force. In fact, there's nothing that compares. Nothing even close to the power of the Holy Spirit, and it's in us and it's on us. We have access to Him. He is a person, He knows us intimately, and He is our helper, He is our teacher, He is our comforter.

As we close let's remember that we don't have to do this alone. We have power from on high. And let me tell you quickly, a personal testimony. I was timid. I was insecure. I was shy. I had low self-esteem. I had no confidence. I didn't think very highly of myself. I grew up very insecure, very quiet. By nature, I'm a bit of an introvert, kind of a bookworm, I'd rather be alone at home with my wife than hanging out with a bunch of people. I enjoy the intimacy of one-on-one conversation. The quiet, solitary life of a bookworm, to be honest. It's my natural bent, that's my natural inclination. But years ago, I found myself in bondage and I couldn't get out, I couldn't get free. And I asked the Lord to help me, and I heard a couple of messages. In one of them, the preacher was saying, "Get up early while it's dark, and go spend time with the Lord. That's the way Jesus did it." He'd get up and he'd go be with the Father. And then he'd come out and he'd rally together the disciples and say, "Hey, we're going here, we're going there, we're going to do this, we're going to do that." He'd been with the Father, He knew what to do. I heard another message, this woman said the Lord told her that if she would pray in the Spirit every day, that all would be well with her life. The Lord took those two messages, and He got my attention. He said, "I want you to do this. I want you to get up every morning while it's dark, and I want you to pray in the spirit for an hour." When I did that, listen, be consistently consistent because the power isn't in either one

of those two words or even in those two words together, the power is in doing it consistently. Consistently get alone with the Holy Spirit, consistently set apart time, and I recommend doing it first thing in the morning. For a couple of reasons. Number one, if you don't, it might not happen. Number two, the best time is when you're undistracted by anything else that's going on. Number three, you can be alone. You can be alone with the Lord. And I did that every morning. I got up and I would just spend one hour praying in the Holy Spirit, and my life began to change. Radical changes began to take place. I found a supernatural confidence not in myself, but in who I was in the Lord. I no longer saw myself the same way, or even really cared about how I saw myself, or how saw me. It became irrelevant. I had the power of the Holy Spirit. I encountered Him and had interactions with Him that changed me. My desires changed, and I had this fire inside that I didn't have before. And that's the power of the Holy Spirit. I'm bold as a lion now, but I wasn't always like that. And I can be honest, there's times where, if I neglect to get alone with the Holy Spirit, I'm tempted to kind of revert back to some of those ways where it's a little bit more comfortable. But I don't allow myself to, if I feel myself going the wrong direction, I whip myself into shape and I say, "Man, I got to spend some more time. I got to get up and start praying in the spirit every day again for an hour." And now Holy Spirit, He comes over me and that anointing, I can feel the increase of the anointing on me, and the more time I spend in His presence, the more time I spend in the secret place of the Most High, dwelling under the shadow of the Almighty. The Most High and the Almighty, those are two names for somebody that you want to know. You want to know the Most High, you want to know the Almighty, and He says, "You can come and sit in my shadow in the secret place, and commune with Me." And let me tell you when you get in there, by the time you come out, you will not be the same.

You won't come out the same way you went in. If you're anything like me, once you get in, you don't want to come out. We've got responsibilities. We've got things we've got to do. But I'm a firm believer that our first responsibility is to get alone with the Lord in the secret place, spend time with Him, get our marching orders from Him, get refreshed, get reacquainted with the Holy Spirit, build yourself up, get a fresh boldness, and then go do whatever it is He's called you to do for the day, but don't do it without Him. Don't do it without the power of the Holy Spirit, it was given to us for a reason, and that reason is to testify for the Lord Jesus Christ wherever we go, to anyone who will listen. And when we do that, we could turn the world upside down, just like Peter and the Apostles did.

Let's have a word of prayer as we close. Heavenly Father, we thank You for the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank You for Your Word. We thank You for the example that He gave us. We thank You that He gave His life for us. We thank You that Jesus has brought us back into our right standing relationship with You, He has redeemed us and reconciled us to You, our Heavenly Father. We thank You that as He completed His work and went home and left the ministry, that He sent, just like He promised, His Holy Spirit, to empower us to carry out this great commission, and we don't take it lightly. And if we have, right now we repent. If that's you repent, you have the Holy Spirit. He's leading you to repentance to do it. But then say, "Moving forward, I don't want to be like that. I have Your Holy Spirit. I want to know Him. I want to move by His power. Be led by His leading. Be sensitive to Him. And be a bold witness to my Lord Jesus Christ." So, let's just receive afresh, according to Acts 1:8, the power that comes when the Holy Spirit is upon us to be a witness to the Lord Jesus. If you're listening at home, just say that, "I receive a fresh power from the Holy Spirit to be

Your witness, Lord, I receive it." Receive it now, I receive it myself. A fresh infilling of Your Holy Spirit, the fire and the power to be a witness to You, all the days of my life wherever I go, to anyone that will listen, in Jesus' name, amen.