

Message: “Fuel for the Fire”

Sermon Series: Power Assisted Living— Seeking the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Text: Luke 11:5-13; John 4:34; Matt 5:6 NIV

Luke 11:5 Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ 7 And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. 9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

John 4:34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Orientation (Me)

(Slide 1) This month we are doing our Easter Sermon Series: Power Assisted Living— Seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is still looking today who he can baptize in the Holy Spirit. Last week we learned that the primary reason why Jesus baptizes us with his Spirit is for the power to witness the gospel. All other SB experiences we may have are secondary. We are not to let the sign of tongues take our focus off the missional significance of Spirit baptism.

Today we are going to learn about how to seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are going to learn why this is important.

Cumulative (We)

(Slide 2) *Jesus needs fuel to light us up with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Opps!).*

Just like fire needs fuel to burn, the baptism of the Holy Spirit needs fuel to burn. It not only needs fuel; it needs the right fuel. [*Share my camp story of trying to light wet wood*]. Lesson learned: the quality of the fuel makes the fire burn long and hot.

Do you know that not all fire burns equally hot? Not all fires burn at the same temperature. Different fuels release varying energies that determine how hot a fire can burn. For instance, burning paper is not as hot as burning gasoline.

You can tell how hot a fire is by its colour. If our bodies are at 310K (37 deg C), then a:

- Yellow flame burns at 1900K (birthday candles)
- Orange flame burns at 2200K (camp fire)
- Blue flame burns at 3560K (Natural Gas)
- White Flame burns at 5700K (Surface of the Sun)
- Guest what temperature is at the center of the Sun? 15 Million K

So you get the idea that not all fire burns at the same temperature. Fuel can affect the fire. Keep this in mind, as we talk about having the right fuel needed for Spirit Baptism. My title today will be “**Fuel for the Fire.**”

Evidential (World)

When we study the Pentecostal movement that happened in modern history (1900s), we discovered how the Holy Spirit didn't just come down in a general way on all Christians. Some people didn't get it and some people did. Some regions got it and some regions did. And when they looked closer at this, it was discovered that Spirit Baptism only came down in regions and on people who had a holy unrest and hunger for God.

When we look at Azusa Street, prior to the Pentecostal outpouring of the Spirit, there was a poor black pastor in a Los Angeles. He was kicked out of his church because the President didn't agree with his teaching something unheard of in his day—that some could receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit like what happened in Acts 2. So he stayed at a home and shared his teachings with a few people who agreed with him and started prayer meetings. These prayer meetings grew with more people hungry for Spirit Baptism. They had to move to a larger home. And in April 1906, (two months from the time Seymour was kicked out of his church), the Baptism of the Spirit fell on him and many others in the meeting.

The meetings grew rapidly, having an overflowed of people on the porch of the home. They had to move to an old African Methodist Episcopal church building, now known as the Azusa Street Mission. Crowds grew up to 1500 people, packing out this small building with both white and black people (in the south during segregation laws). But, they didn't care... they only wanted more of God. They were desperate enough to put aside fleshly differences and go after God (Ugh!).

Stories like this happened all over. In 1980, the Vineyard denomination in California (which, at the time, didn't believe in the supernatural works of the Holy Spirit), had a God-encounter one service. The healing power of God fell on everyone in that service, all because a group of hungry 25-year-old youth people came to the front of the church for prayer. They ended up received the “filling of the Spirit, falling to the ground, speaking in tongues with shaking.

(Slides 3) ***Spirit Baptism falls on those who are hungry for God (Ahh!).***

Prepositional (God)

We cannot control when Jesus decides to baptize us with his Spirit, but we can control being ready for when he comes. We can make sure we are the right fuel for the fire.

We need to recapture the hunger that these folks had prior the Pentecostal moments. We need to be so hunger for God that it permeates in everything we do 24/7. We need a hunger for God in our homes, jobs, schools, our cities, our church etc.

This is a hunger for God that makes you unsatisfied with the way things are in the world, being outside of God's Will. You want to see God in the world in the same way you read about him in the Scriptures. You want Jesus to come, so that, the world can be fully healed and people saved. This is the hunger we need to recapture. We need to increase our "hunger for righteousness." As Jesus said,

"They that hunger and thirst after righteousness, shall be filled" (Matt 5:6) (Yeah!).

Jesus had a great hunger for righteousness. He told his disciples: ***"My food is to do the will of my Father who sent me and finish his word" (John 4:34)*** This kind of hunger for righteousness made Jesus refuse to eat what everyone else was given to eat. Jesus said to his disciples who thought it wrong for Jesus to be speaking to a Samaritan woman because they were of a different race. Jesus responded to them, saying "I am so hungry for God, I don't see race in people. I'm after what My Father wants. I don't care what the world tells me. I want to know from My Father how to live. I am hungry for what He wants from me and for the world. I am not hungry for what I want or what people want for me; I am hungry for what God wants."

Jesus us saying, "My greatest gratification out of life cannot be found in my friends, my spouse, my kids, my sports, my achievements, my recognitions, my money, my carrier, my business, my ministry etc. These are all good, but they are not enough. My greatest gratification is God's Will for the world and what role He wants me to play."

(Slide 4) ***Start building up your appetite more for God than anything else.***

Vision (We)

In Luke 11, Jesus not only describes what this hunger looks like, but he also tells us what happens to people who live with a hunger for God. Let's read it hear:

(Slide 5)

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you... 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:8-9, 13 NIV).

Luke 11 is a chapter on prayer. And in this passage, Jesus is teaching how to pray with a hunger for God. After teaching them the Lord's Prayer, he goes into a parable of a man knocking on his neighbor's house in the wee hours of the night for food.

The man's "asking, seeking and knocking" at the neighbor's door epidermises the kind of hunger for God that he is looking for. This is a hunger that brings a "shameless persistence" upon us to seek for the Holy Ghost... for the KOG... for God's will to be done in the world. "Asking, seeking and knocking" is about a desperation you have for God. You don't care if you have to look like a beggar in the middle the road. What matters is not what people thing. What matters is what God thinks.

People with this kind of "asking, seeking and knocking" knows what rejection is. They know what it feels like to not get their prayers answered day in and day out. But they don't quit because their hunger won't let them quit. Their hunger just keeps them coming back to ask.

There is something about hunger and what it does to you. You cannot just turn it off. You cannot just turn it down. I don't know if you fasted before, but I have learned something about hunger. The longer you are hungry, the hungrier you become. It's going to make you look for God in everything around you. [*Share what happened to me when I went on a juice fast*]. When you hold your appetite only for righteousness, the waiting period for it is going to intensify your hunger. This will make you think about God all the time.

To intensify our hunger for God, it's important that we don't eat before our meal. Project your appetite and it will intensify you hunger and desperation for God. Don't substitute the Lord's meal with the devil's junk food. You want to date someone because they are interested in you and you feel lonely. But that is not God's will for you. That is not what you are to be hungry for. Turn the channel off that commercial that is tempting you. And refocus your hunger on God's Will. Channel that loneliness on God.

And when your hunger is intensified enough, it becomes the right fuel for the fire of God to strike upon you with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost (v. 13). God wants your hunger to be most intense so as to bring about the greater Baptism of the Spirit encounter. God doesn't want to spark a fire in you that won't last. And He cannot light a fire with no fuel. God needs fuel for the fire!!!

(Slide 6) The fire of Spirit Baptism lights up those who have an intense hunger for God and His righteousness (Whee!).