

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal truth to each person present.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you felt you needed supernatural strength to get through a difficult situation. What helped you endure?

Key Scripture References

- **Acts 1:8** - "But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you"
 - **Luke 4:1, 14** - Jesus full of the Holy Ghost, led by the Spirit, returning in power
 - **1 Corinthians 15:55** - "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"
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Key Takeaways

1. The Holy Spirit Brings God's Ability

The word "power" (dunamis) means explosive, dynamite power—God's supernatural ability working in and through us. When the Holy Spirit fills us, He changes everything, just like dynamite transforms a landscape.

2. The Holy Spirit Leads Us Through Challenges

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. Sometimes God leads us to difficult places not to harm us, but to strengthen us. Greater opposition produces greater strength.

3. Spiritual Nourishment is Essential

Just as we feed our physical bodies daily, we must feed our spiritual lives consistently. Stagnation and inconsistency keep us bound and weak.

4. We Already Have the Victory

When you belong to Christ, you're on the winning team. The game doesn't end until you win. Every challenge is just another opponent on the schedule, and God has equipped you to overcome.

5. Prayer Changes Everything

The testimony of persistent prayer (PUSH - Pray Until Something Happens) demonstrates the power of intercession and faithful standing in difficult circumstances.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. What does it mean to be "full of the Holy Ghost" as Jesus was in Luke 4:1? How is this different from just being saved?
2. Pastor mentioned that the Holy Spirit is like dynamite in our lives. What areas of your life need the explosive power of God to bring transformation?
3. How does understanding that God sometimes leads us into difficult situations (like Jesus in the wilderness) change your perspective on current challenges?

Personal Reflection

4. On a scale of 1-10, how consistently are you feeding your spiritual life? What specific barriers keep you from daily spiritual nourishment?
5. Pastor said, "Your feelings will keep you in a place of bondage." When have you let your feelings dictate your actions instead of faith? What was the result?
6. Reflect on the statement: "We don't function by what we see." What situation in your life requires you to walk by faith and not by sight right now?

Practical Application

7. The sermon emphasized that "showing up is the battle." What does "showing up" look like practically in your walk with God? Where do you need to show up this week?
8. Pastor shared how his wife was "mumblin' and prayin'" during a crisis—she was pushing in prayer. Who in your life needs you to push in prayer for them right now?
9. What does it mean to "let the Holy Ghost have His way" in your daily life? What would need to change for this to happen?

Going Deeper

10. The message stated, "You shall receive power AFTER the Holy Ghost has come upon you." Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If not, what questions or concerns do you have about it?
 11. How can we as a group support each other in staying spiritually strong and avoiding stagnation?
 12. Pastor mentioned that opportunities come with adversaries. What opportunities has God placed before you, and what adversaries are you facing? How can the group pray for you?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to implement this week:

Option 1: Daily Spiritual Feeding

- Commit to joining the daily "Everyday Faith" teaching at 6 AM (or watch the recording)
- Journal one thing you learned each day

Option 2: Prayer Power

- Identify one person or situation that needs breakthrough
- Practice PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens) - commit to praying daily until you see movement

Option 3: Declare Victory

- Write down 3-5 scriptures about victory and God's power
- Speak them aloud every morning before starting your day
- When challenges arise, declare: "I already won this thing!"

Option 4: Spirit-Led Living

- Each morning, pray: "Holy Spirit, lead me today"
- Be sensitive to His promptings throughout the day
- Journal where you sensed His leading

Group Accountability

- Share which option you chose with at least one other group member

- Check in with each other during the week via text or call
 - Be prepared to share your experience at the next meeting
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Action Steps

Immediate:

- If you haven't taken your picture for the church prayer book, do it this week
- Download the Lighthouse United church app to stay connected
- Mark your calendar for Thursday night service (6:30 PM)

This Month:

- Focus on spiritual power as the monthly theme
- Women: Invite 5 people to the PUSH Women's Conference
- Commit to attending all-night prayer (May 15th - mark your calendar now)

Ongoing:

- Join daily Bible teaching (6 AM on all social media platforms - @PastorATJ)
 - Participate in Noonday Prayer (Tuesdays at 12 PM)
 - Attend Thursday Night Church (6:30 PM weekly)
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Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 - "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Closing Discussion

1. What was your biggest takeaway from today's discussion?
2. How has this study challenged or encouraged you?
3. What is one specific way you will apply what you've learned this week?

Prayer Time

- Pray for those who need to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- Pray for strength to endure current challenges
- Pray for consistency in spiritual disciplines
- Pray for specific needs shared in the group
- Pray for opportunities to witness and share God's goodness

Close with this declaration together: "I am victorious every time! I have the power of the Holy Spirit within me. I will not be led by my feelings but by faith. God is good, and all is well in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

5-Day Devotional: Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Day 1: Receiving Divine Power

Reading: Acts 1:8; Luke 4:1-14

Devotional: Jesus was filled with the Holy Ghost before entering His wilderness season. The same power that led Him through temptation is available to you today. When God fills you with His Spirit, He doesn't lead you away from challenges—He leads you through them. The Holy Ghost brings dunamis power, explosive dynamite power that changes everything it touches. Your current struggle isn't evidence of God's absence; it's the training ground where His power is perfected in your weakness. Like Jesus, you'll emerge from your wilderness "in the power of the Spirit." Don't despise the difficult season you're in. God is positioning you for a greater demonstration of His glory.

Reflection: What challenge are you facing that requires Holy Ghost power rather than human effort?

Day 2: God's Love Surrounds You

Reading: Psalm 139:1-12; Romans 8:38-39

Devotional: Everywhere you look, God's love is all around you. When you look north, south, east, and west, His love surrounds you completely. You cannot escape His presence or His care. Even in your darkest valley, when depression whispers lies and circumstances seem overwhelming, God's love remains constant. His love isn't based on your performance or feelings—it's rooted in His unchanging character. The same God who woke you up this morning has already ordered your steps for today. Nothing can separate you from this love—not failure, not fear, not the enemy's attacks. You are completely enveloped in divine love that reaches to the highest mountain and flows to the lowest valley.

Reflection: How can recognizing God's surrounding love change your perspective today?

Day 3: Praise Is Your Weapon

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Psalm 34:1

Devotional: You owe God praise—not because He needs it, but because you need to give it. Praise isn't dependent on perfect circumstances; it's a sacrifice that shifts spiritual atmospheres. When you had to press your way to get here, when pain tried to silence your voice, that's when your praise becomes most powerful. The sacrifice of praise breaks chains, opens prison doors, and confuses the enemy. God inhabits the praises of His people, meaning when you praise, His presence manifests with power. Your praise bill is due. For the ways He's made, the times He's saved, the price He's paid, and His mercies new every day—you owe Him praise. Don't wait until everything is perfect. Praise Him now.

Reflection: What are three specific reasons you can praise God today, regardless of circumstances?

Day 4: Breakthrough Through Prayer

Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:9; James 5:16

Devotional: Great doors of opportunity come with many adversaries. When God opens a huge door for you, expect opposition. But here's the key: prayer pushes through every obstacle. Like the woman who prayed from Missouri to Houston, mumbling intercession until the impossible became possible, your persistent prayer moves heaven. Pray Until Something Happens—PUSH. The enemy wants you to quit before the breakthrough manifests, but your prayers are already working. That diagnosis may change. That financial crisis may shift. That relationship may heal. Keep pushing in prayer. The Holy Spirit knows what to pray when you don't have words. Don't stop now—something is happening in the spiritual realm because you're praying.

Reflection: What situation requires you to "push" in prayer right now?

Day 5: Victory Already Secured

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; 2 Corinthians 2:14

Devotional: You've already won. The game doesn't end until you win, and with God, you're always in the majority. When Christ rose from the dead, He secured eternal victory over sin, death, hell, and the grave. Because you're in Christ, His victory is your victory. Stop walking around defeated—you're on the winning team. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" These aren't just poetic words; they're your reality. Whatever opponent is on your schedule this week—fear, sickness, lack, confusion—you're victorious through Christ. God always causes you to triumph. Your breakthrough isn't coming; it's already here. Walk in the authority Jesus purchased for you. The greater One lives inside you.

Reflection: How does knowing you've already won change how you approach today's challenges?

Closing Prayer: Father, thank You for filling me with Your Holy Spirit power. I declare that Your love surrounds me, Your victory is mine, and breakthrough is happening in my life right now. I will not be silent about Your goodness. I will praise You, pray persistently, and walk in the authority You've given me. All my life You've been faithful, and I trust You with everything ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen.