

Bridge Church Fredericksburg - Pastor Jimmy Pruitt - July 10, 2022

More...Where our hunger meets His Promises

- Week 5 -

“Empowered to Share This Life - Part 2”

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

James 4:8 NKJV

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...”

Whatever is going on in our world - in our lives - we literally and continually look to Jesus, and by faith - not faith in *our* faith, but faith in his faith - we draw near to him. As we do, we have faith that he draws near to us. We are thankful for John 10:10. We know there's an enemy - a thief - who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy - and yet, Jesus came and arrested - interrupted and *disrupted* the enemy's strategy and plan to take us out. Jesus gives us Life - Zōē (*dzo-ay'*) - the God-kind and quality of Life - Life and Life more abundantly.

We lean into that - in spite of circumstances, or the state of the nation - or the world - and we stand in who God has called us to be - into our identity *in Christ*, as sons and daughters - made righteous by what Jesus has done, living out *“Tetelestai”* (*It is finished*), and in his Presence - when he is in the room, *“something has to break.”*

Rain is coming - not just in the natural, but in the spiritual realm as well - an outpouring of the rain of God - perhaps the “latter rain” of the last days. So, we're asking God, *“Let it rain - the “reign” of God's Presence upon us.”* When we wake up in the morning, we say, *“Good morning, Holy Spirit!”* and when we pray to, interact with, and involve and walk with the Person of the Holy Spirit, we're walking with God, the Person of God, himself - the One who lives with us, in us, and upon us.

So, when a crisis comes at us - when we get “the call”, the first words that flow from our mouths are, *“Holy Spirit...”*, like a breath coming out - our first response, as we re-orient our thinking, and practice embracing the Holy Spirit at the beginning of each new day. As we are seeking and learning *More* about the Holy Spirit, and giving him more of us, we will spend the rest of our lives getting to know the Holy Spirit, and who he is - beyond the weird and negative connotations and stereotypes about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, which the enemy has used to inoculate us against being tender towards Him, or being open to Him.

We need to understand from a biblical perspective, that to know the Holy Spirit is to know God - to walk with the Person of the Holy Spirit is to walk with God - the very Presence of Jesus in us, through us, and upon us on others' behalf, and our hunger for the Person and work of the Holy Spirit is the driving force of this journey we're on.

John 14:15-18 NKJV

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray [ask] the Father, and He will give you another Helper [Greek: Paraklétos - Counselor, Advocate, Comforter, Friend], that He may abide [dwell, live, habitate] with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is our Helper - *Paraklétos* - Advocate, Comforter, Counselor - our Friend - he comes alongside to help us - he is our Companion - he will never leave us alone - he is our Teacher - he reminds us of all that Jesus has taught, said, and done - he is our Intercessor - he prays for us before the Father - he is God - he is not an "add-on" to the Trinity - he has a mind - he is omniscient - all-knowing - he has a will, desire, choice, determination - he has emotions.

Why? - because he's a Person. He's the fulfillment of God's Promise - the Gift of his Presence - he empowers us to live, by filling and pouring himself upon us. He "whelms us over" - overwhelms us with his Presence, purpose, and power. He reminds us of everything Jesus said, did, and taught. He shows us things to come in the future (the prophetic gifting). He anoints us (sets us apart) by his Grace to do what we cannot in and of ourselves do. He gives us what to say in the moment, when we don't know what to say.

Luke 12:11-12 NKJV

"Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

We have been empowered. Our experience in Christ is our testimony of who Christ is, and what he has done for us and in us, and is now wanting to do *through* us. So many times, we're afraid to share our faith - talk to others about our faith - because we're afraid we may not know what to say, or that we may not know the answer to a hard question.

The Good News is the Holy Spirit, himself, will give us what to say when we're in those circumstances and situations, but it will require trust, faith, and the belief that God will never leave us hanging.

Acts 1:4-5 ESV

"And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the Promise of the Father)? Picture yourself standing under an open heaven and rain falling upon you. That is what it means to be baptized - immersed into - whelmed over by the Holy Spirit as though he's coming upon you.

Acts 1:6-8 ESV

"So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' [7] He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [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, and to the end of the earth.'"

Why? "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Never forget that your experience in Christ is your experience. No one can judge or say, "*That didn't happen*", because your experience is unique to *you*. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to share your faith or an evangelist to evangelize - to share your faith with other people.

If you will get so full of Jesus - be in his Presence - get filled up - and then go out the door and leak out what you're full of. "*Leak out - don't freak out.*" We want to leak out the Life - the Joy - the fruit of the Holy Spirit - the proof - the product of the Holy Spirit - that kindness - that joy - that Love - that Peace - all those things - not to freak the world out, but to leak out the Life of Christ.

Wherever we go, we show up and leak out Life because we've been in the Presence of God - we're filled to the brim - we're *overwhelmed* with him - and because he's *upon* us. We go out with a full cup - a full bucket - a full container - and as we go, we're spilling over everywhere we go.

Picture that - because that is *our experience* - our testimony - and no humanist - no atheist - no negotiator - *no one* - no devil in hell - can dispute our experience. Your testimony is unique to you, and that is your ace in the hole - *that's it* - and so guard, protect, and share it liberally.

Luke 12:11-12 NIV

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

We've all had moments where we were prompted to say something - maybe we felt the door crack open - maybe a question was asked - a statement was made, and we felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit - the Helper - the One called alongside - but for fear or concern we took a step back, but Scripture gives us a Promise - that we will *know* what to say when it's time to say it. Say *Amen* to that. By faith say, *"I'm in agreement with that."*

The Lord wants to say something *through me*. He's given *me* an experience that no person can refute. They can disbelieve it, but they can't refute it. We should definitely study to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV) - get to know God's Word - spend time in God's Word - but it's what we have *experienced* - the Peace that passes all understanding that we felt in the midst of a crisis.

Who's going to refute that? We recognized - realized one day that we were sinners - apart from God - we didn't know him. We knew *about* him but we didn't *know Him* - and it was *that* recognition that opened the door for us to realize that we needed a Savior - we needed *Help* - we needed *Jesus*. What did he do? He came in - he filled us up - he gave us a purpose - a reason to get up in the morning. *That* is our experience. He also gave us a pulse. Where there's a pulse, there's a purpose, and a Promise - and there's Power available to us by his Holy Spirit.

The Gift That Keeps on Giving (Pastor Jimmy's post from July 2)

The disciples walked away from everything familiar to follow Jesus and accompany him on the adventure of a lifetime. They were in uncharted territory and it was exciting, terrifying, thrilling and dangerous all at the same time. Jesus told his disciples they would not be on their own, he would send the "Paraklétos," the One called alongside to help i.e. the Helper,

Advocate, Intercessor, Comforter, Counselor, Friend. He would accompany and empower them to live the Christian life. He fulfilled his promise of the coming Holy Spirit at Pentecost and again, later at Cornelius' house (Acts 10). He continues to fulfill this powerful promise in us. Have you asked the Holy Spirit to fill you, empower you, anoint you and embolden you? Pause and invite his presence into your life right now.

Jesus said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13 NKJV) Coming into a deeper encounter and experience with the Holy Spirit is as simple as praying and asking. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8 NKJV).*

The same way you were born again is the same way you receive all the promises and gifts of God - and as you came to him by Grace - Grace enables you to do so through faith - by Grace - through faith - and you simply ask - *Pray this simple prayer: "Holy Spirit, would You come into me and upon me and empower, counsel and help me to live this life for the Glory of my Abba Father? I am Yours and by faith I receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen."*

Invite the Holy Spirit to embolden you - empower you - anoint you - *whelm you over*. By faith, receive it - don't check your emotions, or to see if you're getting fuzzies or electrocution - but simply say, *"Lord, thank You that I have what I asked because You heard my prayer - and if I know what I'm asking is the will of God, then I know I have what I asked for."* Do that. Receive by faith and be grateful - and just say, *"Thank You, Lord for filling me - for pouring Your Spirit upon me - for empowering me. I'm Yours, and Holy Spirit, I'm all Yours. Do what You want to do."*

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the privilege of Your Word. Thank You that You teach us - that You give us a testimony that is unique to us. And, Lord, everywhere we go we can leak out this Life and share why we're able to navigate the world different than the world - to share the Hope that lives within us - Your Presence and the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. We're thankful. We honor and love You! In Jesus' name. Amen