

## ***And Suddenly!***

The Followers of Christ Receive the Holy Spirit

### ***The Empowered Church Series – Part 3***

Jan 21/22

Acts 2:1-41

#### **Introduction**

- **Who is the Holy Spirit and Why Is He Such a Big Deal?**
  - **God is a complex being.** educated guesses.
  - **Scripture tells us two key truths that we must reconcile: 1 God,** but He reveals Himself in **multiple Persons.** 3 for certain.
    - **How do we know there's ONE God?** – 10 commandments. Shema. **Monotheism is a key doctrine.** complex God = **YAHWEH = God together as a whole.'**
    - **What does 3 Persons Mean?** – **God reveals Himself in 3 distinct and separate personalities.** all united and unified and of one mind as God, but they can operate independently of one another AND have different roles.
      - **A.) An Analogy** = fingers
  - **How the 3 work together in Scripture: Think ROLE and FUNCTION.**
    - **A.) Creation** – 1.) (Father) spoke the world into existence, 2.) (Son) was that *Word or Logos* who did the creation, 3.) (HS) organized the creation and hovered over it with His presence.
    - **B.) Christ's Baptism**
    - **C.) Salvation** – 1.) (Father) initiated redemption and salvation in love by sending the Son. 2.) (Son) acquired the salvation by dying on the cross for the sins of the world. 3.) (HS) rose the Son from the dead and indwells God's people so that salvation is acted & sealed upon their spirit.
  - **The Forgotten God**
  - **The Most Present God** – **the Holy Spirit is the most present member of the Trinity that we deal with today.** Communication: Distance, Alongside, Inside; Sending: Father to Son to Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One who is...
    - Empowering Us
    - Teaching Us
    - Comforting Us
    - Partnering with Us
    - Talking to Us
    - Moving Through Us
    - Convicting Us
    - And so much more...

- There is **NO CHRISTIANITY** without relationship to the **Holy Spirit**. It's time for some of us to realize...

### **The Holy Spirit CHANGES EVERYTHING**

- **Last Week Recap**
  - **Year of Power** - We need power to be and do the things that God wants to do through us.
  - **Wait for Power**
  - **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – can also happen in **OUR LIVES TODAY**.

#### **Lesson**

- **The Upper Room Experience**
  - **The 120 Receive the Power Filling of the Holy Spirit**
    - **Acts 2:1-4** – *“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*
    - **What is the Day of Pentecost?**
      - **Historic Pentecost** - *“Feast of Firstfruits” or “Feast of Weeks”*. It always falls on the 50<sup>th</sup> day from the first Sunday of Passover. it was a way of God keeping Israel’s eyes on the fact that He is the one that provides for them and they aren’t doing it all themselves. It was a day of THANKS as well as EXPECTATION of MORE.
      - **Why God Chose This Day (Firstfruits & New Law?)** – *‘first fruits’ of the New Era & New law?* – (Heb 8:10-13)
    - **They Were All Together** – God chose to use unity as the precursor to the power. *The Unity didn’t cause the release of Power. BUT Unity meant that it would be a positive experience.* As I said last week, all historic revivals have been ruined by infighting and disunity.
    - **The Difficulty of Unity** – why is unity so difficult? If we are truly greedy, shouldn’t we want the best? Don’t we want MORE? Usually we do, but *there’s something we want more than MORE...CONTROL.* For unity to be realized and actuated, everyone has to release some form of control and that’s increasingly more and more difficult with every generation. That’s why we are seeing **historic division** in our lifetime in America.
    - **One Place: Upper Room?** – we don’t know where they were at.

- **The Sound from Heaven like a Mighty Rushing Wind – like a wind storm.**
  - **Why Wind?** – pneuma is the word for both breath and for spirit. I wonder whether or not **it's the breath of God** that was coming upon the room. Think about how **Jesus said to the Disciples at the Last Supper**, as He **BREATHED on them**, 'receive ye, the Holy Spirit.'
  - **The Sound Filled the Room**
  - **The Sound was Heard Outside and Drew a Crowd**
- **Divided Tongues of Fire Appeared to Them and Rested on Each One of Them**
  - **Why Fire?**
  - **Divided tongues of fire**
    - **What Does Fire Represent in the Bible?** – Shekinah Glory
  - **The Flame/Flames showed up first and THEN went to their resting spot**
    - **Resting Place: Over individual heads – indicates anointing.**
    - **Everyone Got One – how cool was it that God had 120 flames of His presence for His 120 kiddos in that room seeking His presence?**
  - **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit –** the concept of being filled is interesting. **It's used of other things than the Holy Spirit.** anger? jealousy. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that His power is flowing in a dominating way. **It's almost always an empowerment for a purpose (to get Jesus stuff done).**
- **began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance –**
  - **Speaking in Tongues – *Discovering the Supernatural Series*, November 12-13<sup>th</sup>, "*Discovering the Voice of the Lord.*" - Part 4**
- **Power Evangelism**
  - **God Draws a Crowd of Visiting God-Fearers to Hear the Gospel**
    - **Acts 2:5-11 –** *"Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and*

Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

- **Devout Jews & Proselytes – Why? Pentecost Festival**
  - **The Dispersion (Diaspora) -** They will still His people. Blessing all. Take it home with them.
- **The Rushing Wind Sound Drew a Crowd?**
  - **When did the 120 Go Outside? Why? (Temple run)**
  - **Power Evangelism – when God does something supernatural that gets the attention of others who need to hear the gospel.** Bridgeway needs to operate in the supernatural more for this reason.
- **Hearing Their Own Language Confused Them and Freaked Them Out –It felt very personal,** like it was directed toward them.
  - **Power of the languages –** 1.) **Many times, God does stuff that’s not necessary but it is meaningful.** Problem with analytical people who discount relational connection. 2.) **It’s critical that we share the gospel, the good news of God in a way that non-believers can understand.**
  - **Power of Diversity – God’s heart is ALWAYS UNITY IN DIVERSITY.**
  - **Content of the Tongues (Praise) –** it can be other things.
- **God Called His Shots**
  - **Peter Explains Pentecost Event was Prophetic**
    - **Acts 2:12-21 –** “And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”<sup>13</sup> But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. <sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. [9am] <sup>16</sup> But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: [Joel 2:28-32] <sup>17</sup> “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; <sup>18</sup> even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;<sup>20</sup> the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. <sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

- **Initial Reaction** – ‘what does this mean?’ = healthy reaction. **The problem with skepticism first mentality.**
- **Secondary Reaction** = drunk. Like Nazareth story.
  - **The Insight a ‘Drunk’ Challenge Gives Us** – **Why not highly-educated?**
  - **Why Does it Have to be Weird?** – 1.) **Weird highlights something different is happening for God to get attention;** 2.) **Pride is such a problem for human beings.**
- **Peter Steps up with a Message** – spokesman.
  - **It’s too Early for These People to be Drunk** mn
- **This is a Fulfillment of Prophecy from the Prophet Joel** – Joel 2:28-32
  - **Last Days** = Post Messiah
  - **God will Pour His Spirit Out**
  - **On All Flesh: Sons and Daughters** (men/women prophesy; old & young visions and dreams; slaves & free) – **human classification doesn’t hinder the Holy Spirit.**
  - **Wonders in Heaven and on Earth** (*blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood*)
  - **BEFORE the Day of the Lord Comes**
    - **What’s the Day of the Lord?** – OT concept - day of reckoning, Messianic kingdom and judgment (Millennial).
  - **In the Last Days: Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved**
- **The Good News**
  - **Peter Lays Out the Basics of the Gospel Message**
    - **Acts 2:22-24** – *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”*
      - **Men of Israel, Listen...** -
      - **Jesus of Nazareth a man** -
      - **Attested to you by God with mighty works, wonders and signs** – Clearly God was with Him and He wasn’t normal.
      - **That God did through Him in your midst** – you were there.

- **Jesus was handed over according to God's ultimate plan** – God worked through it, but...
- **YOU crucified & killed Him**
  - **By the hands of lawless men** = Romans
  - **BUT - God Raised Him Up** (Resurrection)
- **Jesus is the ONE**
  - **Peter Cites King David's Prophecies Concerning the Messiah**
    - **Acts 2:25-36** – *“For David says concerning him, [Ps 16:8-11]“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One see corruption.<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’<sup>29</sup> “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.<sup>30</sup> Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,<sup>31</sup> he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.<sup>33</sup> Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.<sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, [Psalm 110:1] “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand,<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.”<sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*
    - **It was According to Prophecy by King David**
      - **Why cite King David?**
      - **The Prophecy**
        - **I saw the Lord always before me and at my right hand**
        - **He made it so I would not be shaken**
        - **I loved it: heart glad, tongue rejoiced, flesh has hope, tell me the paths of life, make me full of gladness with your presence** – game changer.
        - **I know I'm not going to live forever apart from God** (not left in Hades)
        - **You won't leave the Messiah in death** (let Holy One see corruption)

- **It's Prophetic because David Died BEFORE the Messiah Showed up –**
  - **David's confidence was rooted in God's promise**
  - **He foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ**
  - **Peter: We are Witnesses of the Resurrection - He is alive. He's the ONE! The Messiah.**
  - **Jesus went to the *Right Hand of God***
  - **Promised Holy Spirit**
  - **A Second Prophetic Quote from King David**
    - **'The Lord said to my Lord' – Father talking to Jesus**
    - **Sit at my right hand until I defeat all Your enemies**
  - **Let's all Jews Know This: God made Jesus both Lord and Messiah! -**
  - **And YOU killed Him!**
- **The Response**
  - **The Crowd Reacts to Peter's Message**
    - **Acts 2:37-41 – “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”**
    - **They were Cut to the Heart**
      - **When they heard – they were guilty BEFORE they heard, but...**
      - **Brothers – They knew it was Jews talking to Jews.**
      - **What shall we do? – Moment of crisis = moment of decision.**
      - **Repent - Change your mind and own up to what you did.**
      - **And be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ**
        - **Every one of you – individual salvation, not group or family.**
      - **For the forgiveness of your sins –**
      - **And you WILL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – You get the combo pack...doesn't mean power pack.**
        - **No Laying on of Hands, nor Manifestation of Tongues/Prophecy –**
    - **This promise is for your lineage and for everyone on this planet**

- **It was a much longer message** – ‘with many words...
- **They got baptized - 3,000 Became Christians that day**

### **Conclusion**

- **There's No Holy Spirit without Jesus First** – we don't get power until we are new people.
- **Altar Call?**