

"HOLY SPIRIT POWER"

Luke 24:49

The great preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, once made this observation: "If there were only one prayer which I might pray before I died it would be this: 'Lord, send your church men and women filled with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'"

I. THE NEED FOR POWER

A. Jesus was looking ahead at what his disciples would need in life – and especially in ministry

1. He knew they would have human weakness/limitations
 - a. Character deficiencies:
 - b. Lack of ability: *Confidence/talent/speaking/limited intellect*
2. He knew they would be facing supernatural opposition
 - a. Demonic powers that resist conversion
 - b. Demonic powers that will assault God's workers

B. In God's love – He allows us to become frustrated at our own lack of power

1. *Fished all night – caught no fish* b. *Rowing ship – but going nowhere* c. *Demon possessed boy: Why couldn't we cast it out?*
 - a. God wants us to realize our lack and get sick & tired of a lack of power

C. God's answer to human weakness is Holy Spirit power

1. The Holy Spirit is God manifested/made real in human lives/inside of us
 - a. God in action: *Doing something; Either inside a person/through a person or for a person*
2. **This is a promise:** God does not intend to leave us powerless!
 - a. **John 14:16** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*
 1. Another: Greek word *Allos* – exactly the same as having Jesus!
3. **This is a command:** God commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - a. **Luke 24:49** *I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*
 1. Don't try and perform a supernatural work with natural power; Without supernatural power
 - b. **Ephesians 5:18** *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*
 1. Continuous sense (keep being filled): *We leak – we will have to be re-filled*

II. THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

A. It's obvious that being filled with the spirit is a powerful thing

1. Day of Pentecost: place shaken/tongues of fire sat on – transformed them & made them effective

a. **Acts 2:2-4** *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

³ *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.* ⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

1. They were personally transformed: Suddenly became bold
2. They were supernaturally effective: A simple message pierces their hearts 3,000 saved!

B. History records the power of those truly filled with the spirit

1. *Book of Acts: The record of the Holy Spirit at work in & through human lives*

2. *Pastor Mitchell: Felt wind blowing/thought a door had been left open. Spoke out powerfully in tongues and prophesied for almost 30 minutes. Everyone left – told my mom to lock the door when he was done.*

3. *Smith Wigglesworth* 4. *John G. Lake* 5. *Reinhard Bonke*: 6. *Glen Cluck: Boldness to witness*

C. My concern is that we have allowed the baptism in the Holy Spirit to be diminished

1. *Settling merely for speaking in tongues – but lacking the power that is clearly promised; Personally & in our converts*

III. SEEKING THE SPIRIT

A. **We must develop faith in the Holy Spirit**

1. Search the scriptures: Study what God's will is and what the spirit will do
 - a. *Read books on the Holy Spirit*

B. **We must seek the Holy Spirit Luke 24:49** tarry...more than wait; Priority!

1. The church began with a 10 day prayer meeting waiting on/seeking the power of the Holy Spirit

a. **Jer 29:13** *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

b. **Isa 41:17** *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*

John G. Lake: My soul was drawn out in a great silent cry to God. Oh, Jesus, I long for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I am so hungry, so tired of trying, so weary of doing things myself, Suddenly, a great quiet came upon me, deepening into a peace I had never experienced. Presently it seemed as if I had passed under a warm tropical rain that was falling not on me, but through me. My friend asked me to help him pray for a lady with rheumatoid arthritis. As I touched her head, I could feel currents of power shooting through me into her. I began to speak in another language. Years later, as I knelt in prayer and reconsecration to God, an anointing of the Spirit came upon me. Waves of holy glory passed through my being, and I was lifted into a new consciousness of God's presence and power.

D.L. Moody: "I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the city of New York -- oh, what a day! - I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name... I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were no different; I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world -- it would be as the small dust of balance."

Smith Wigglesworth: The Pastor's wife laid hands on him and he felt the fire power of the Holy Spirit lay hold of him. I was bathed in the power of God. I was conscious of the cleansing precious blood. He was filled with an increased consciousness of cleansing. Then he began to speak in languages unknown to him. Immediately after being filled, he returned to the meeting and interrupted the speaker, asking if he could say a few words. His wife watched amazed, as he husband, who previously could not hold the attention of anyone for the briefest periods, now had people gave him rapt attention as he spoke with great conviction. The congregation was so stirred that within a short time 50 of those present were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

Charles Finney: I returned to the front office, and found that the fire that I had made of large wood was nearly burned out. But as I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received at mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without any recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love; for I could not express it in any other way. It seemed like the very breath of God.

Joel Comiskey: as first filled with the Holy Spirit in early 1974. In 1973 I had received Jesus for salvation, yet I lacked power in my life. I was afraid to proclaim to others my newfound faith in Christ. I was in my last year of high school and desperate to become bold about my faith. My lack of spiritual power led me to attend a miracle service of Shekinah Fellowship. They prayed for me to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. I did not speak in tongues that night (I did later on), but the change in me was evident the very next day. All I could do was talk about Jesus. I witnessed about Jesus to everyone I saw that day. My life was totally transformed from that night onward. I began to carry my Bible with me everywhere, setting it down on the right corner of each classroom desk at High School. I wanted people to know that I was a believer - and I had the confidence to prove it. The Shekinah Fellowship experience, however, was not enough. I needed repeated fillings of the Spirit's grace and power.

Reinhard Bonnke: As Arthur Kukula spoke, my faith leapt up and shouted "yes" within me. The words of Scripture seemed to come alive in my chest. When Arthur invited those seeking the Holy Spirit to kneel and pray I did so immediately. No sooner had I reached my knees than I was overwhelmed with an incredible sensation. No one needed to lay hands on me to pray. I received the gift of speaking in tongues spontaneously and burst out in a heavenly language. It seemed to come from beyond me and from within me at the same time. My mind began to receive a stream of pure light and love from the very throne of God. It flowed over me and went straight through me at once. This was far more than a mere bolt of electricity. It was as if every cell in my body was being saved, healed, and invigorated by a surge of divine power.

Books on the Holy Spirit

7 Pentecostal Pioneers Colin C. Whitaker

You Shall Receive Power Graham Truscott

The Astounding Diary of John G. Lake

Baptised By Fire Smith Wigglesworth

The Azusa Street Mission & Revival Cecil M. Robeck

The Anointing of His Spirit Smith Wigglesworth

The Blessing Thomas E. Trask & Wayne I. Goodall

Are You Flammable or Fireproof? Reinhard Bonnke

Spiritual Power Don Basham

Taking Action by Reinhard Bonnke

Spirit Rising by Jim Cymbala