

The Holy Spirit ~ Empowered to Be a Witness

Connect: Who first shared the gospel with you? Did you give your life to Jesus right away?

Big Idea: The American church needs to reclaim an understanding of and a responsiveness to the Holy Spirit and his work. Who is the Holy Spirit and what is His role in our Christian walk? Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which He said you heard from me, for John baptized in water but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4-5) The Holy Spirit is a gift and empowers us everyday to live the Christian life. This week we will learn that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to be a witness for Jesus.

Word:

Jesus said, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." - John 16:7

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:19-22

4 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; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. 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." Acts 1:4-8

For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation...Romans 15:18-2

So What:

1. Read John 16:7. Why was it good for Jesus to go back to the Father? What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be our helper?
2. Read John 20:19-22 & Acts 1:4-8. If the disciples received the Holy Spirit after Jesus was raised from the dead, what was the promise they were to wait for?

3. According to Acts 1:8 & Romans 15:18-20, what does it mean that the Holy Spirit empowers us to be a witness?

Now What:

1. Have you ever felt like you're inadequate to explain Jesus to others? Have you ever felt like you're not prepared to share your testimony story with people? Have you ever tried to witness for Jesus but it seemed like a fail? How does the Holy Spirit help us overcome these feelings of inadequacies?
2. What is your main hesitation in sharing your faith with others? How did this sermon encourage you to step out in faith and not hold back?
3. Pastor Dave said, "The word baptize means - to immerse, to overwhelm. This is not dipping your toe in the Holy Spirit, but means to be dipped continually in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit." What would that look like in our everyday walk with Jesus?

Action Step: Have you ever asked God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Pray as a group for power of the Holy Spirit to help you be a witness to those who do not know Christ.

Additional notes:

This power given includes (1) moral and spiritual power; (2) power to overcome temptations, and to do right under the most trying circumstances; (3) power to lead men to the Saviour; (4) power to overcome all enemies and obstacles, though they were like mountains to be cast into the sea; (5) power to work miracles; (6) power to lead the church; (7) power to bring the kingdom of heaven. (The Teachers' Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles)

Potential energy is stationary, with stored energy to be released; kinetic energy is energy in motion, actively using energy for movement. The power is there, but it's not kinetic - it's potential. Born again = potential energy Baptism in the Holy Spirit = kinetic energy.