

## **20140601 THE PROMISE IS YOURS!**

**Text** Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Intro:

Jesus said those who receive the Holy Spirit, receive power. What it amounts to is power to be like Jesus in this world.

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him. (1 Jn. 4:16-17)*

Power to live like He would have us live. Power to copy Him with our lives. Power to do the things He did - and greater.

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (Jn. 14:12)*

With our immersion into the Holy Spirit's influence comes an opportunity to be clothed in power from above.

### **1.Power ... To Live for Jesus**

So many people struggle in their Christian walk.

*Romans 7:15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . . 18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. . . . 21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Ro. 7:15, 18-19, 21-25a)*

You can make it to heaven without the baptism in the Spirit, but you need the baptism in the Spirit to survive here on earth until we get to heaven.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us power to live for Jesus.

### **2.The Promise of Power ... To Witness**

*... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...*

One of the things Jesus told us the Spirit would do is to empower us to share our faith.

Think of Peter's transformation at Pentecost.

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,... (1 Pe. 3:15)*

The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us the power to be witnesses for the Lord. The Great Commission tells us to *make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Mt. 28:20)* That is why Jesus instructs us to receive the Spirit.

### **3.The Promise of Power ... To Have Signs Follow**

*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. (Mk. 16:17-18)*

The power to have signs follow us is really the power to believe, power to have faith. These signs follow simple believers in the ordinary course of their lives as they respond in faith to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Cor. 2:4-5)*

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (1 Cor. 4:20)*

The truth is the least experienced, the most unpolished and unprofessional Christians see the miracles Jesus promised because of pure faith in the Word of God. The Bible says it, and they are smart enough to believe it and act on it. They pray for miracles and get results because they don't know any better!

The baptism in Holy Spirit certainly effects us in church, but that's not why He gave us the baptism. ... It's for us to live every day.

#### **Close:**

To open your life to the Spirit of God is to open your life to power. The baptism in the Spirit is no guarantee that we will be like Jesus, or that we will utilize the Spirit's power. It is only a guarantee that He will make that similarity possible and that power available.

Diligently seek to be filled with His Spirit. Pray for this Spirit baptism - until you've received it.