

BY KEVIN BERRY



Holy Spirit And You

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

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INTRO

Your Divine Advantage

How would you like to have a divine advantage in life? Would you like to access to supernatural help, for every area of your life? This is exactly what Jesus promised when He was talking to His disciples about sending the Holy Spirit. Jesus said,

"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 ESV).

In this little book I want to introduce you to an intimate friendship with the Holy Spirit. Years ago, I used to think that the Holy Spirit was a power that I was supposed to get. But I have learned that He is a divine person to know. Just as there are degrees of closeness we can experience in the relationships in our lives, so it is true of our relationship with Holy Spirit. We simply can't afford to have a distant friendship with the Holy Spirit.

The truth is, there is no life in Jesus without Holy Spirit. There is no transformation of our lives outside of Holy Spirit. There is no victory over sin without Holy Spirit, no power to live a godly life, there is no divine guidance, no help from Heaven, no comfort, no power to do signs and wonders that point to Jesus. **But with the Holy Spirit you have a divine advantage in life.**

I pray you enjoy the journey of experiencing the Holy Spirit's friendship!

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you (2 Cor. 13:14 MSG).

CHAPTER ONE

The Holy Spirit and You

And I pray that you, firmly fixed in love yourselves, may be able to grasp (with all Christians) how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ—and to know for yourselves that love so far beyond our comprehension. May you be filled through all your being with God himself (Eph. 3:18-19 JB Phillips).

You were created with the capacity to be full of God! The human soul is broader than the entire universe in its ability to contain God. The whole world cannot contain God, yet God created the human soul to become His home. He created you with the capacity to be filled with His Spirit.

What is your life full of? People fill their lives with so many things: toxic thoughts, pleasure, pride, busyness, guilt, goals, success, and failures. Too often, the life created to be filled with God is filled with all the wrong things.

Today, will you make it your goal to be filled with the Spirit of God?

Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted (Eph. 4:30 MSG).

We know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us (1 Jn. 3:24).

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God, the third member of the Trinity. He is not a power to get, but a divine person to know! Are you experiencing the fellowship, communion, and partnership of the Holy Spirit? Think about it for a minute. God the Father is in Heaven. Jesus was in Heaven at creation; He came to the earth and ascended back to Heaven. Where is the Holy Spirit? He is the only member of the godhead that is on the planet!

You are meant to experience the amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We can only be saved by God's grace. Just one moment in God's grace can wipe away years of disgrace! You must have an encounter with the love of God. God's love obliterates all fear. And you absolutely must experience the sweet friendship of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is not a power to get but a divine person to know.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Cor. 13:14).

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

We see the first activity of the Spirit of God on page one of our Bibles. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, but creation was a process, not done all at once.

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of the Lord was hovering over the surface of the waters (Gen. 1:2).

Formless and empty come from Hebrew words that mean a place of chaos and confusion, a lack of order. The earth was filled with darkness, the land had not risen from the water, and there was no vegetation or life. This is where we see the Spirit of the Lord hovering (preparing to move something from chaos to order, from chaos to beauty) over the surface of the waters, making something beautiful out of what was chaotic.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES WHAT WAS FILLED WITH CHAOS BECOME FILLED WITH BEAUTY.

That is what He did at creation, and He still does today! Everything beautiful that God does in your life is accomplished through the direct action of the Holy Spirit! Are there areas of your life that are chaotic? Is there something broken that looks beyond hope? You need the Holy Spirit. As I look at the chaos around us, I'm reminded of our desperate need for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! You can look at all the chaos around you or see the Spirit moving above it all. He's preparing to bring life, order, and beauty!

This is what the Spirit does for us! He comes to live inside us when we place our faith in Christ. He starts to untangle all the messes of our lives. He makes what was ugly, filled with sin and chaos - beautiful! Oh, I'm so glad that God doesn't wait for us to be void of chaos before He comes to us! While I was a disaster, He came for me. Thank you, Lord!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR HELPER.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you (Jn. 14:16-17).

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away because if I don't, the Helper won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment (Jn. 16:7-8).

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future (Jn. 16:13).

What do you need help with in this current season of your life? If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ for your salvation, you have a divine advantage in life with the Holy Spirit as your helper! Go ahead and ask for His help right now, and watch what he will do for you!

The Spirit will help you when you need to know what step to take next. He will direct you on who you should marry, where you should work, what church you should be a vibrant member of, what decisions to make, and how to manage everything on your plate. He will provide you with heavenly downloads of wisdom that will show up at just the right time. But mostly, He will make you look more and more like Jesus. Just as the Spirit gradually moved the world's creation from chaos to beauty, He will do the same for you!

There is no transformation in our lives apart from the work of the Holy Spirit.

And the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more (gradually) like him as we are changed into his glorious image (2 Cor. 3:18).

CHAPTER TWO

Three Relationships With the Holy Spirit

Three little words have significant meaning:
With. In. Upon.

He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you (Jn. 14:17).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere (Acts 1:8a).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH YOU.

The word "with" in Greek, means alongside or nearby. The Holy Spirit is with the people you pray for to be born again and enter God's family. The Holy Spirit pointed out Jesus Christ as the answer to your sin problem. It was the Holy Spirit that led you to say yes to Jesus.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU.

The word "in" is a different Greek word that means to be in the interior. Speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told his disciples:

But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you (Jn. 14:17).

Later, Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn. 20:21:22).

Just as God breathed on Adam and gave him life, when Jesus breathed on the disciples, I believe this is the moment they became born again. Even with the Holy Spirit living in them, the disciples were told to wait until the Holy Spirit came upon them.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS UPON YOU.

The word "upon" is not the same as "with" or "in"; it comes from a different Greek word, "Epi," and gives us the picture of being filled to overflowing!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere (Acts 1:8a).

I picture a glass that can be partially filled, filled to the top, or filled until overflowing! What a picture of the Holy Spirit filling our lives to overflow.

You might say that the Holy Spirit lives inside of you for *you*. He comes upon you and fills you for the sake of *others*! This is a moment of empowerment for ministry.

“The supreme need of the Christian life is to receive the Holy Spirit.” - Andrew Murray.

Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to come upon Him before He could begin His earthly ministry. The disciples needed the Holy Spirit to come upon them before they could complete the mission Jesus gave them. We see in the Scriptures the absolute necessity of believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We, too, must have the Holy Spirit come upon us so that we can fulfill our God-given assignments with supernatural assistance.

CHAPTER THREE

Essential, Not Optional

And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven (Lk. 24:49).

Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:4-5).

I used to think that being filled with the Holy Spirit was optional. I knew being saved was essential; that would determine where I would spend eternity, in Heaven or Hell, and the kind of life I would live on this earth. I could live an abundantly full life or a life of constant chaos. I also thought water baptism was an option. If I wanted to, I could be water baptized later on. And maybe someday I could be filled with the Holy Spirit. But that would be a long way off; after all, the Spirit is Holy, and I didn't always feel very holy. But that is not what the Scriptures teach us!

Paul spoke to Ephesus believers as a command, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18).

“You may as well try to see without eyes, hear without ears, or breathe without lungs as to try and live the Christian life without being filled with the Holy Spirit.” - D.L. Moody.

The disciples obeyed Jesus' command to wait until the Holy Spirit had come upon them in Jerusalem. Just look what happened:

On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven, like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, filling the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability (Acts 2:1-4).

As people heard them speaking, they came running! People from various nations had gathered for Pentecost. They heard these disciples speaking in their own native languages, a language these disciples had never learned before. They heard them praising God, but how could this be? Some even thought that maybe these disciples talking in all these languages were drunk. What a thought! I don't know a lot about being drunk, but the people that I've seen drunk before don't even speak good English, let alone speak a language that they never learned. Anyway, Peter explained what was going on when he said:

These people aren't drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel. In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams (Acts 2:15-17).

Peter went on preaching about Jesus and said how they had nailed the Son of God to the cross. But this was all part of God's plan for man's salvation. Jesus was the payment for our sins, the perfect sacrifice for all time, and God raised Him from the dead. At this time, the people cried out, what should we do? Peter replied:

“Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God” (Acts 2:38-39).

I want you to notice the regular pattern we see throughout the early Church's life in the Bible. People get saved, water baptized, and then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit coming upon them. This is the regular pattern for Christians today!

Notice that Peter emphatically said that after repenting of your sins, get water baptized. Then, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit! Not *you might*, not *maybe if you want to*. Receiving the Holy Spirit was not an option for later on in their spiritual experience. On the day of Pentecost, the promise of the Holy Spirit was given to the Church! While the disciples waited a few days for that promise, we never see people waiting to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit coming upon them after Pentecost.

When I was about 15, I wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I didn't know I could have just asked the Lord myself at that time. So I went to an older man in our church, expressed my desire to be filled with the Spirit, and asked him to pray with me. To my surprise, he told me he would pray for me, but I might have to wait for 15 years. What?! That was such a discouraging moment for me. But I learned it's not true; that's not what the Word of God tells me.

Here are the words of the Apostle Peter today: *You will receive*, and there was no talk of needing to wait. This promise is for you! The bottom line is if you are born again, you have the Spirit of God already living inside of you. Ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you will receive!

If you sinful people 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 (Lk. 11:13).

We are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

Charles Finney described his being filled with the Holy Spirit: “These waves of liquid love that just kept flowing over and over me, until I had to shout out to God crying, God, stop! I cannot take any more.”

Throughout the journey of these early disciples, it’s apparent that being filled with the Holy Spirit was essential! Let’s look at this together.

Eight years after Pentecost, Phillip preached in Samaria, where many people believed Phillips's message about Jesus Christ, and many were water baptized. But they had not yet had the Holy Spirit come upon them.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God’s message, they sent Peter and John there. As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

Notice that it was so important that these new believers receive the Holy Spirit that Peter and John traveled 35 miles, likely taking 1-2 days! Do you also see the regular pattern of people being saved, water-baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit? Of course, it doesn't always happen like that, as

we will see in Acts 10.

In Acts 9, we meet a terrorist named Saul. He was part of killing Christians for their faith in Christ. But he had an encounter with Jesus that changed the trajectory of his life. What would be next for Saul? He needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit to fulfill his new assignment from God.

So, Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:17).

Ten years after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, we meet a man named Cornelius, whom an angel had directed to invite Peter to come and visit his household. As these people heard the message about Jesus and received it in their hearts, look what happened:

And even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who listened to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God (Acts 10:44-46).

Over 20 years after Pentecost, Paul was in Ephesus, where he found some believers. They needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul asked them:

Did you receive the Holy Spirit since you believed? No, they replied, we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit (Acts 19:20).

As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:5-6).

How about you? Did you receive the Holy Spirit since you believed? Have you had the Holy Spirit come upon you since you believed?

CHAPTER FOUR

What Happens When People Are Filled?

We see repeatedly that people spoke in a supernatural language that they never learned before when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Let's look at every case of people being filled with the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts and note how they spoke in tongues and, in some instances, prophesied. It's undeniable that they had a form of prophetic speech.

On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability (Acts 2:1-4).

And even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who listened to the message. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God (Acts 10:44-46).

As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:5-6).

There are two times in the Book of Acts where we see people filled with the Holy Spirit, but it's not recorded that they spoke in tongues. The first is in Acts 8 with the Samaritan believers. However, the Scriptures record that a guy named Simon saw that the Spirit was given when Peter and John laid their hands on the believers (Acts 8:18). What did Simon see? My guess is the same thing seen all the other times people are filled with the Holy Spirit; they saw them speaking in tongues.

Then Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 9. When Ananias laid his hands on Saul so he would regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit, there was no mention of Saul speaking in a language that he had never learned before. However, when he later wrote a letter to the Corinthian church, he said,

"I'm glad I speak in tongues more than all of you" (1 Cor. 14:18).

SIMPLY A LANGUAGE

What are tongues? In the Bible, people who spoke in tongues were supernaturally speaking in a language that was not their native language and a language they had never learned before! When I travel to different countries, they speak their native language while I speak English.

Notice that believers spoke as the Spirit gave them this ability. As with our natural language, you must choose to speak it out. It's your mouth, and you must move it for sounds to come out. When my wife Renee wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit, she sat on her bed and said "Lord, I ask you to fill

me with your Holy Spirit." Then she opened her mouth and stuck her tongue out. She expected the Holy Spirit to take her tongue and start talking with it. She said she felt something at that moment but did not speak in tongues. About a week later, she was in her room praying when she started speaking in tongues. She learned that the Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He is not going to grab your tongue and make sounds come out of you. You must exercise faith and use your tongue to make sounds as the Holy Spirit gives you this ability. Sure, it will sound weird; it's different from the language you are used to speaking. But it is a supernatural prayer language given to you by the Lord.

Some say that speaking in tongues is undeniable, as we see it in the regular lives of believers in the Bible, but it's just not for today. But nowhere in the Bible tells us that this promise is not for us today! Peter said the opposite:

"This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God" (Acts 2:39).

One of the verses people use to convince others that not all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit speak in tongues is 1 Corinthians 12:30, where Paul says, "Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!" However, the context of Paul's question concerns public gifts being used in the church, not a private prayer language. Paul is asking if everyone is an apostle. Is everyone a prophet? Are we all teachers? In the context of using public gifts in the church, we are not all using the same gifts.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Power of Praying in the Spirit

There is immense value in daily praying in this heavenly language called tongues. As we have learned from the Scriptures, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one-time event but a continuous life of being filled. So it is when it comes to praying in this supernatural language.

YOU ADD POWER TO YOUR PRAYERS WHEN YOU PRAY IN THE SPIRIT!

If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you, but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him (1 Cor. 14:2 MSG).

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. For example, we don't know what to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who

knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will (Rom. 8:26-27).

When I pray in tongues, I am in direct contact with Heaven. It's a language that originates in my Spirit, not my head. Our flesh cannot move against us when we pray in the Spirit. Graham Cooke said, "Our mind can join the party, but it can't spoil it."

Have you ever been so overwhelmed and broken by the circumstances of life that you don't know what to pray? You are not alone! When you don't know what to pray, pray in the Spirit. God knows what to pray for, and the Spirit will help you. This is why in 1 Corinthians 14:15, the Scriptures say we should pray in the Spirit and with words we understand.

There will be other times when you will be so grateful, you can't find enough words to express your deep love for Jesus. Those are the moments when you can pray and sing in the Spirit.

YOU ACCESS DIVINE REVELATION WHEN YOU PRAY IN THE SPIRIT.

But it was to us God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own Spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's Spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us (1 Cor. 2:10-12).

The Spirit shows us God's deep secrets! I can't count the number of times I have needed to make a decision or found myself talking with someone, and I needed the wisdom to help them. Quietly, I would pray in the Spirit, and God would share truth with me, a picture with me, or a word of direction.

How often do you face situations where you need more wisdom and understanding than you currently have? Pray in the Spirit!

As you pray in the Spirit regularly, it's like you make deposits into an account. Then, at just the right time, when you need access to that wisdom and a divine solution, the Holy Spirit will bring it to you.

YOU GAIN SPIRITUAL STRENGTH WHEN YOU PRAY IN TONGUES.

A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church (1 Cor. 14:4).

"Strengthened" or "edified" comes from a Greek word that depicts being charged like a battery. What a picture! Have you ever tried to use a tool, but the battery was low? It just doesn't work with the power it is intended to work with. You were designed to function with a supernatural strength that comes as you pray in the Spirit.

You don't get this prayer language because you are so spiritually strong; you get it to make you more spiritually strong!

CHAPTER SIX

Empowered to Minister

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

The disciples could not live out their God-given mission to take the gospel of Jesus to the world's nations without being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Look at Jesus' earthly ministry as our example. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Him to empower Him to minister, and the same is true for us! If we are to demonstrate the Kingdom of God on this earth, we, too, must be filled with power from Heaven. If we are to be witnesses of what we have seen and heard about Jesus, we, too, must be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free (Lk. 4:18).

WE SHOULD EXPECT POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON US.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Some think, "Yes, God is powerful. Yes, God empowered people to do supernatural things. However, that was for a different time. Power was for the apostles, but we don't need that anymore." The problem is the Scriptures say something completely different:

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages (Mark 16:17).

For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it's living by God's power (1 Cor. 4:20)!

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead (Eph. 1:19-20).

Jesus promised to fill the disciples and us with power, not tongues. Please understand me. I'm all for speaking in tongues. However, I want the power that Jesus promised.

POWER IS NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE GOODNESS OF GOD.

God is good and all-powerful, so it stands to reason that He would use His unlimited power to do good! Every miracle, healing, and prophetic word reveals His goodness.

King David tells us to “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him (Acts 10:38).

Moses shows us the reason for displays of power. The people were in bondage and needed to be free. God's goodness sees and takes action.

“I have been watching closely, and I have seen how the Egyptians are treating you. I have promised to rescue you from oppression in Egypt.” When they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped (Ex. 3:16-17; 4:31).

The same God who saw Israel's mistreatment sees you! And He has the same love and the same power to set you free! The enemy has set traps all around our community. People are caught in addictions, bitterness, and disease. Every trapped person is a candidate to experience God's goodness. As Kingdom agents, our role is to give people a taste of the Kingdom—a taste of His goodness.

POWER IS NEEDED TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHRIST!

Entire towns have come to Christ because of seeing God's power at work.

Everybody who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him walking around and woke up to the fact that God was alive and active among them (Acts 9:35 MSG).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

If we believe in the reality of Heaven and Hell; if we know we have been made alive and new in Christ; if we have experienced the Good News for

ourselves—we will see the need for the power of the Spirit to come upon us, so we tell people about Jesus everywhere! Tell those closest to you first. Who are the people close to you? How are you being a witness of the Risen Savior to them?

The church relied on what the Holy Spirit could do, not what they could manufacture. The Apostle Paul saw the gifts of the Spirit and miracles as the means to communicate the gospel.

Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum (Rom. 15:18-19).

John Wimber was 20 years old when he accepted the Lord and became born again. He was reading his Bible and became so excited by what he saw: the sick healed, the blind could see, and even dead people came to life! One day at his church, he asked an elder, "When will we do the stuff?" The elder replied, "What stuff?" John said, "You know, the stuff in the Bible - healing sick people, casting out demons," to which the elder replied, "Oh, we don't do that anymore." Leaders were teaching John what too many Christians believe today: Read your Bible, but don't expect to live it. No! You were made to "do the stuff" in the Bible. Yes, read it, and yes, live it.

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages (Mk. 16:17).

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then he went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him (Acts 10:38).

**It's time now to receive His power
and "do the stuff!" Let's go!**



Holy Spirit And You

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Is the Holy Spirit for me? Is the Holy Spirit working in the world today?

The Holy Spirit is not an “it” or a distant source of power we need, but a Person that we can and must know. There is an intimacy with the Holy Spirit that is meant for you to experience. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit has a personality. The Holy Spirit is on a mission, and you are that mission!
