

What does God want us to know, to feel, and to do?



## “The Person and Power of the Holy Spirit”

Acts 1:5-11

- Fusion Bible Study in Viera (info)

### **Intro:**

- 2010 Goals Home work assignment...
- Continuing where we left off last week...

### **Opening Illus:**

- Weber grill on stage
- 2 Charcoal briquettes... what if I put these two pieces of charcoal in the grill and added raw chicken – who would want to eat it?
- What if I put 100 briquettes? (Dump bag of coals into grill indicating more people, but still no fire) If there is still no fire, nobody would want to eat it... They have the potential but without the fire, their useless... Some of you here are like that – you have never let God into your life...
- Others of you here are the like the briquettes after a half hour of burning... you are red hot and now very useful... You are on fire for God – filled with zeal and passion from the Holy Spirit.
- Others of you are like the coals after the meat has been cooked... and the grill has been closed and the briquettes have been separated and cooled down... You’re a “has been” for God... You once were on fire but now you are nothing but cold... living in the past... useless for God.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned over 50 times in the Book of Acts, more than any other New Testament Book. So if we are going to make sense of the book of Acts we obviously have to understand the Holy Spirit and His ministries on earth.

- Exactly Who is this Holy Spirit and the baptism in the Holy Spirit? (Teaching in two weeks on baptism and tongues)

What does God want us to know, to feel, and to do?

- What roles does the Holy Spirit play in the world, in the unbeliever and the believer?

Today in the world AND in the church there is **great confusion and a WIDE variety** of beliefs regarding the Holy Spirit.

1. Some unbelievers have no knowledge at all.
2. Some think of the HS as the sign of the cross....father, son, Holy Spirit
3. Some think of the Holy Spirit....as some powerful force....like star wars... “May the force be with you” ... (Chris’ iphone light saber app)
4. For some Christians – the Holy Spirit is too controversial – just give me JESUS and leave that HS stuff to those “holy rollers” ...
5. Others want all the EXPERIENCES of the Holy Spirit but don’t care about what the BIBLE teaches about the Holy Spirit.

**So how are we going to acquire true knowledge about the Holy Spirit? - Go back to sound BIBLICAL teaching as our foundation for living...**

One day Jesus made a very bold statement to HIS disciples.

**(T) John 15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (Write **Phil. 4:13** in your margin next to this verse)

The reason we are here today – is because the disciples submitted to Jesus as the head of the church and were empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness for Jesus to the ends of the earth...

**\*\*\*The Gift – The Promise of the Father\*\*\***

**Acts 1:5** “For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- This was not the first time that Jesus talked about the promised GIFT from God.

**(T)John 14: 16-17** “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

**(T)John 16:7** “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

- In fact in an earlier meeting with His disciples – Jesus said this: **Luke 24:49** “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.**”
- The disciples ALSO knew that God had promised **this gift of the Holy Spirit in the OT:**  
**Joel 2:28** “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

Back to **Acts 1:5** “In a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.**”

- In the past, Satan, along with the church has confused many people with this gift. But notice that Jesus said it was NECESSARY to wait until they received this gift.
  - The idea of baptism here was that of emersion. John baptized with water, submerged the people in water, Here, Jesus is saying *“you're going to be submerged in the Holy Spirit in a few days.”*
  - (Dr. Constable) “The key to the apostles' successful fulfillment of Jesus' commission was their baptism with and consequent indwelling by the Holy Spirit. **Without this divine**

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**enablement they would only have been able to follow Jesus' example, but with it Jesus could literally continue to do His work and teach His words through them.**

Consequently their **preparation** for the baptism of the Spirit was very important. Luke recorded it to highlight its **foundational significance.**

- Do not be freaked out or weirded out by the Baptism in the Holy Spirit... It is the joy of the Christian life to be filled with the peace and power of God's Spirit... And as Jesus fills you with His Spirit, you will become a bold witness for Jesus Christ and you will notice a supernatural power working in your life that you didn't have to drum-up with your own emotions, rather, God's Spirit has begun to work in your life and now flows through you like torrents of living water...
- Ask the Lord to baptize you in His Spirit... (Afterglow service coming up in two weeks) He will do it and your life will be filled with the glory of God and you will experience the fullness of what it means to have purpose and meaning in your life...

**Acts 1:6** So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

- The disciples were thinking of a new political kingdom that would restore Israel to its rightful place in society. They were thinking of a new physical reign here on earth for Jesus and a role for themselves in this earthly kingdom.
  - *"Is this the date and the time?"* How did Jesus answer this question?

**Acts 1:7** He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."

What does God want us to know, to feel, and to do?

- Jesus makes it very clear to His disciples that they have **gotten sidetracked** from the main issue.
- Jesus doesn't even answer their question except to tell them – the TIME for this is ONLY known by God.
- This was Jesus' LAST DAY on earth and he wanted to get their thinking straight.

**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.”

- “**BUT**” - Jesus redirected, refocused, and got them back to their mission.
- We must not get sidetracked from our mission. In other words... Jesus is saying to His disciples: “**quit getting sidetracked from the great commission.**”
  - Don't be overly concerned with end time's events – only God knows the WHEN - BUT DO keep making disciples while there is TIME.
  - Don't be concerned with SELF – only the Jews. BUT DO be concerned with the whole world including the Gentiles.
  - Don't be concerned with POLITICAL power – changing the natural conditions of man on this earth. Sin in this world and in the hearts and lives of people is the core issue. (Even being super into politics: If you're a Christ follower, what do people first know you as... a Democrat? A Republican? Or a Christ Follower?) BUT DO be concerned with the SPIRIT of man – the heart of man that must be born again.
- What can get us sidetracked today from the Great Commission?
  1. The “When?” of end time events...
    - We are to have HOPE for the future (We know the future) but LIVE for today...

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- In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, when He was talking about worry, He said, **Matthew 6:34 (NKJV)** "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."
  - There is plenty of kingdom work set before us today to get accomplished...

2. Pursuit of possessions – Self

- Latest computer, iphone, cars, etc...

3. Cares of this world - family, education, job advancement

- Balance

4. Pursuit of physical image

- Exercise, health foods, facial crèmes, supplements  
Balance again... we want to be healthy while we are here... we should watch what we eat, we should exercise, etc... BUT this cannot be the main focus... we are ALL going to die.

Jesus said to his disciples – I have left you here for a purpose:

The main thing - Be a disciple of Christ and keep making disciples.

**Acts 1:8** (continued) "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."

- It is impossible to live the Christian life without the power of the Spirit within us.
- The word "power" comes from the Greek word "dunamis" also meaning dynamic.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power, ability, efficiency and might to be a witness of God.

What does God want us to know, to feel, and to do?

1. Before we were Christians the Holy Spirit was “*with*” us (Greek: *para*), convicting us of sin and drawing us to Christ (John 14:15-17).
2. Once we became Christians the Holy Spirit was “*in*” us (Greek: *en*), dwelling in us (John 14:17; 1 Cor. 6:19, 12:3).
3. The third experience of the Holy Spirit is when He comes “*upon*” us (Greek: *epi*) and overflows from our lives (Acts 1:4-8).

### To the Christian:

- Jesus’ last command should be our first concern.

**Acts 1:9** “After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.”

- Try to explain this in human logic... One moment you are looking at Jesus and the next He is gone!... into the Heavens...
- Acts 1:9 was supernatural – life is supernatural – eternity is supernatural
  - **Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)** “Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. **He has planted eternity in the human heart**, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”
    - God has planted eternity in your heart... That means we know that we are going to live forever...
    - We know that there is life beyond the grave.
- Jesus had previously told the disciples that this would happen. And yet to watch it actually happen was another thing. Jesus was NOW gone and they would never see Him again on this earth.
- Why did Jesus leave the earth?
  1. Because His work of salvation was complete.
  2. Jesus said He had to leave so that the counselor (the Holy Spirit) could come.

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- a. **John 16:7** “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

**Acts 1:10-11** “They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men (Moses & Elijah...? Don’t know...) dressed in white stood beside them.<sup>11</sup>“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

**Luke 24:50-53** “When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup>And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.”

On that incredible day, Jesus completed His visit to our planet. He came and made disciples – showing them how to live for God. He came and died on the cross – to pay for the sins of all mankind. He was resurrected to show the power of God over the power of Satan.

Guys, I desperately want you to know something tonight... Jesus will come back to this earth at the end of the tribulation to set-up a new world order where He is in total control...

- First, as in **1 Thessalonians 4:17** tells us, He will come in the clouds to rapture us... His bride...
- Then, as **Zechariah 14** and **Revelation 19** says, He will come to the earth with us behind Him, and He will go forth and fight against the nations... and in that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west and there will be living waters that flow out from Jerusalem... and the Lord shall be King over all the earth...
  - But until then, expect things to get worse and worse as Satan influences a world headed for total destruction.

**Unbeliever:** Accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior... escape the coming wrath – get ready to live now and forever in Heaven. Where is the Holy Spirit in your life today? What kind of personal relationship do you have with the Holy Spirit?

To be a Christian and go to Heaven, you must have the Holy Spirit **IN** you.

- For some of you He is alongside you right now. God has been speaking to your heart maybe for the **FIRST** time.
  - You know that your sins have never been forgiven.
  - The Holy Spirit wants to come into your life and start that personal relationship **IN YOU**.
- Even though the Holy Spirit is God – do you know that you can still **RESIST** Him?
  - God allows everyone the power of choice.
    - Don't resist God.
    - Don't listen to Satan – who says wait for another day.
    - God says to you tonight, this is **YOUR** night.
- It is time to come and have your life changed forever.
- **Christian:** Today, we don't want to be "*gazing up into heaven*"... "our head in the clouds", if you will, when He has given us a specific mission to take the Gospel around the world... **Q.** What's been driving you lately? Self or the Spirit of God? Are you operating in the power of the Holy Spirit?

**Altar Call:**

- To be a **Christian** and go to Heaven, you must have the Holy Spirit **IN** you.
- To be an **effective disciple**, you must have the Holy Spirit come **upon** you.

What does God want us to know, to feel, and to do?

- To be a **consistently** effective disciple you have be **continually filled** with the Holy Spirit. (As Pastor Mark says, “We leak”)
- (Go back to the grill/pieces of coal) And may we all become white hot followers of Jesus Christ...

### **Closing prayer:**

- Next Week: January 17<sup>th</sup> Acts 1:12-26 “In The Midst of Waiting”  
**(Communion)**
- January 24<sup>th</sup> Acts 2:1-13... Teaching on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit... the issue of speaking in tongues... followed by a time of prayer for you to be personally baptized in the Holy Spirit...