

## Our Firm Foundation on Holy Spirit Power

The Holy Spirit is not given to us just so we can feel the electrifying tingle of the Spirit run down our spines, or feel a "blessing." Rather it gives us the power to overcome temptations, heal the sick, perform miracles, cast out demons and fight off even the direct assaults of Satan himself. Without that power, we cannot long live in the realm of the Kingdom of Heaven because Satan is clever and wily and will draw us away from God. We MUST be filled with the Holy Spirit to live overcoming, happy, fulfilled and fruitful lives.

### GOLDEN TEXT:

**But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** Acts 1:8

### SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Acts 1:8; 4:33; 6:8; 8:19; 10:38; Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:4,5; 4:19,20; Ephesians 1:19; 3:6,7

### ACTS 4:33

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all.

### ACTS 6:8

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

### ACTS 8:19

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

### ACTS 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

### ROMANS 15:13

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

### 1 Corinthians 2:4,5; 4:19,20

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

5 That your faith should not stand in

the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

### EPHESIANS 1:19

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.

### EPHESIANS 3:6,7

6 That the gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel;

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God unto me by the effectual working of His power.

### INTRODUCTION:

Jesus told the disciples that He was sending them out as sheep among wolves (*Matthew 10:16*), and as we look about us, we see the forces of deceit, dishonesty, selfishness and greed lined up against us if we are trying to live holy and blameless lives before the Lord. We, too, are as sheep among wolves. But we have a Shepherd who walks with us and His own power within us, if we have been baptized with and remain continually filled with (*Ephesians 5:18*) the Holy Spirit, so, unlike natural sheep, we can resist the devil and he will flee from us, (*James 4:7*).

### 1. THE PROMISE OF POWER.

*But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth* (1:8).

*And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* (Luke 24:49).

Both of these scriptures were spoken by Jesus as He gave his followers final instructions before He ascended into Heaven. They were not told to go at once and begin witnessing for Him, because they were also under orders to be meek, humble, submissive and peaceful in a



world full of jealousy, hatred and murder. Had they gone forth as they were, they would have been no more powerful than Simon Peter was a few days earlier when he denied Jesus to the little servant girl. The Name of Jesus would have been a laughingstock and the infant church would have soon died. So Jesus commanded those five hundred or so (See 1 Corinthians 15:6) who had gathered around Him at His Ascension to go to Jerusalem and wait or tarry until they were endued with power. The command was **never repeated** after the Holy Ghost had once been given, being superseded by Peter's instructions on how the first believers of the first "Christian," post Ascension sermon could receive the Holy Spirit,(See Acts 2:38.). Nor has that power of the Holy Spirit been taken away at any time, for, as Peter said: "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call," (Acts 2:39).

In Matthew 10:16, Jesus told the twelve disciples, :*"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves..."* If that was true in Jesus' day, when people at least tried to follow the Mosaic law, how much more furious are the wolves of the day when rebellion against authority is on every hand, and how urgent it is that we must be full of the Holy Spirit power.

## 2. HOLY SPIRIT POWER DEFINED.

The dictionary defines "**Power**" as the ability to do or act, capability of doing or accomplishing something; great or marked strength; might; force; authority.

Strong's Concordance shows several different words which are translated "power" at various places in the new Testament, but the one referring to the power of the Holy Spirit is the Greek word, "dunamis", implying miraculous power or might. "Dunamis" is the word from which we get the modern word *dynamite*! And dynamite is a good synonym for Holy Ghost power. Miracles of healing, deliverance from impossible situations, complete transformation of a person's lifestyle and life, needs being met beyond any normal expectation and an authority which other people can distinctly feel are but a few examples of the power of the Holy Spirit.

While we are defining words, let us also clarify the use of the words Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost. We are well aware that some people think you are backslidden if you say "Holy Spirit" instead of "Holy Ghost," but the original Greek word translated Ghost in Acts 2:4 is exactly the same "*pneumatos*" as is translated Spirit in verse 17 and again Ghost in verse 38. The word "*pneumatos*" is a form of the word "*pneuma*," and both refer to breath, wind or unseen force. We get the words pneumonia, pneumatic, pneumodynamics from these same words and all refer to the breath or power of air. The only two places where the word "spirit" appear in the New Testament that are not derived from "*pneumatos*" are the two Gospel accounts of Jesus walking on the water and the disciples thought He was a "*phantasma*," a phantom or ghost. A close study of everything the Bible says about God's Spirit will reveal that even in the Old Testament, the Spirit of the Lord is the same as the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost in the New Testament and was and is the unseen moving force of God throughout the universe. The only difference in the New Testament is that through the sacrificial death of our Savior, we may now have that power within us to change our whole nature from carnal to spiritual.

## 3. HOLY SPIRIT POWER IN ACTION.

*a.) In The New Testament*

*And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33). And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. (Acts 6:8).*

*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. 1 Corinthians 2:4*

The thing that set the followers of Jesus Christ apart from all the magicians, physicians and witch doctors of their day was the power of the Holy Spirit which they demonstrated. Notice how Simon the sorcerer of Samaria (*Acts 8*):9,13,18) was ready to pay – not for the power to perform miracles, but for the power to impart the Holy Spirit upon others. Notice, too, how Elymas, the sorcerer of Paphos on Cyprus (*Acts 13:8-11*) was smitten blind when he tried to withstand the power of the Holy Spirit manifested in Paul.

It was the power of the Holy Spirit that healed the man at the Gate Beautiful of the temple and opened the way for the sermon that brought five thousand new believers into the church (*Acts 3 and 4*).

*b. In the present generation.*

Every day there is someone the doctors said was about to die who miraculously gets well, often instantaneously, right here in America in modern hospitals, and the doctors simply shake their heads and say, "it must have been a higher power" that touched their patient.

Tent and crusade revivalists attract much of their crowd by conducting prayer lines for healing, and, while the honest ones will declare that only about ten or twenty percent are healed, still have the opportunity to preach the Gospel of deliverance to all who will listen and some lives are unquestionably and wonderfully transformed.

More commonplace is the calling for the elders of Bible believing churches and healings taking place within the local church, but when a person with a large, visible skin-cancer is healed through prayer, the whole family is often brought into the faith.

But probably the most important single effect of the power of the Holy Spirit in each and every truly born-again believer is the transformation from a self-seeking, satan-serving individual into one whose very life and purpose is aimed dead center at pleasing God. It is a radical transformation and not many church members can honestly say that the whole purpose of their lives is to please and honor the Lord, but those who can are easily known by their power to overcome temptation, evil, doubt, fear, sickness, and whatever else Satan can throw in their way. The person who is full of the power of the Holy Spirit is the one you have confidence in and turn to for prayer when you doctors said was about to die who miraculously gets well, often instantaneously, right here in America in modern hospitals, and the doctors simply shake their head what only God can give.

*c. Is there a limit to the power available to Christians today?.*

The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 1:19, describing the "inheritance in the saints," declares that our power is in "exceeding greatness" and "mighty power." In Ephesians 6:10, he tells us to "Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might." And in Ephesians 3:6,7, he says, "That the gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel; Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God unto me by the effectual working of His power." At first,

the power was for the seed of Abraham, but now gentiles, non- Israelites, can also be partakers of His limitless power and the ministry is established by “the effectual working of His power.”

**SUMMARY;**

Prophecy is being fulfilled so rapidly today, that we can expect our Lord Jesus to return for His bride, the redeemed church of composed of Holy Spirit filled believers, at any moment. But Satan is also launching some of his fiercest attacks on believers now and we MUST have the power of the Holy Spirit within us to be overcomers. And as we see the rising crime rate, children betraying parents, wars and rumors of wars, unprecedented disasters, plagues (as of locusts in Africa a few years ago or the worldwide AIDS epidemic with the rise of the organized sodomites) and satanist cults, we can feel the powers of darkness closing in around us. But we need not worry or fret if we remain constantly filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, for “...*Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world,*” (1 John 4:4).