

Theme: We are to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, Who empowers us for the mission of God in the earth today.

I. Intro - Power Tools

- A. My lack of skills with tools is legendary!
- B. Getting Linda tools for gifts - I can do that!
- C. But one thing I know - power tools are great!
- D. An air-powered nail gun is much better than a hammer
- E. Today: The Spirit empowers us for ministry!

II. The Promised Spirit Will Empower

- A. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to His people
But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit comes on you...** Acts 1:8
 - 1. Jesus promises that He will send the Spirit
 - 2. Jesus had promised the Spirit to His people before³⁸ “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:38–39
 - a. Jesus promised that the Spirit would flow out of everyone who believed in Him
 - b. But this could not happen until Jesus had been glorified
 - 3. This is not a new promise - it is the fulfillment of God’s covenant promises through the ages
He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:14

- a. Paul says the blessing given to Abraham comes to us - and this blessing is the Spirit
 - b. The culmination of God’s covenant promises is that by His Spirit He dwells in us
 - c. Because the Spirit would dwell in us, we would be God’s people and He would be our God!
- B. The Spirit will come on us in power!
But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you... Acts 1:8
- 1. Jesus promised the Spirit would come in POWER!
 - 2. This is what was often seen in the Old Testament - when the Spirit came upon people He came in POWER!
So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. 1 Samuel 16:13
 - a. When Samuel anointed David as king, the Spirit came upon Him in power
 - b. In the Old Covenant the Spirit only came upon a few prophets, priests, and kings, but in the New Covenant He comes upon every believer.
 - c. In the Old Covenant the Spirit only came upon people; in the New Covenant he comes upon us, dwells in us, fills us, and flows out through us!
 - d. This is the promise of Pentecost - we are indwelt, filled, and overflowing with the Spirit as He empowers us for the mission!
- C. The promise was fulfilled on Pentecost as the Spirit came in power

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1–4

1. The Spirit came as a violent, mighty rushing wind
2. He rushed upon all of the disciples there
3. All of them were filled with the Spirit
4. This is the Spirit coming in POWER!
5. Pentecost is the fulfillment of God's covenant promises to dwell in His people so that they are His people and He is their God.

III. Empowered By the Spirit

A. We are empowered by the Spirit for the mission

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.** Acts 1:8

1. The Spirit will empower them for the mission of taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth
2. The disciples had still been looking at things like political power, but Jesus was looking at the Great Commission!
3. The primary reason the Spirit gives us power is so that we can fulfill the mission God has given to us!

4. This is why on Pentecost the Word goes forth with POWER and 3,000 are converted, baptized, filled with the Spirit - and join the mission!

B. We are empowered by the Spirit with spiritual gifts/ manifestations of the Spirit to help us serve others as part of the mission

Now about **spiritual gifts**, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant... ⁷ Now to each one the **manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...** ¹¹ All these are **the work of one and the same Spirit**, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, 11

1. Spiritual gifts, manifestation of the Spirit, work of the Spirit - all refer to the same reality
2. The Holy Spirit empowers and works through each believer in a unique way, equipping them to serve God's purposes as they serve others.
3. Note these are not for good of the one in whom the Spirit is working but for others - the common good.
4. Spiritual gifts are concrete expressions of God's grace, manifested by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, in order to enable us to serve others in love.
5. The Spirit is empowering each one of us to serve others in love and this furthers God's mission in the earth!

C. We are empowered by the Spirit to resist sin, embrace righteousness, and obey God (sanctification)

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Galatians 5:16–18

1. The Spirit and the sinful nature are at war!
2. Sin does not want us to follow God, or to be engaged in His mission in the earth!
3. Sin does not want to serve others in love, but rather to assert my rights, my needs, my wants!
4. But the Spirit is POWERFUL to help us overcome sin, embrace righteousness, and engage in God's mission as we serve others in love!
5. Sin's siren call is crying out to pull us off course, but the Spirit is given to lead us in God's way and to avoid following sin's siren call into destruction.
6. As we walk in the Spirit, following His leading, the fruit of the Spirit grows in us and the mission of God is furthered through us.

D. We are empowered by the Spirit to engage in spiritual warfare to see God's kingdom expanded!

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in **his mighty power**.
¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces** of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:10–12, 17–18

1. We are engaged in spiritual warfare - not fleshly warfare
2. This warfare requires the power of God - given to us by the Holy Spirit!

3. We fight with the sword of the Spirit - God's Word
4. We fight by praying in the Spirit!
5. The mission of God will not be advanced by our plans and strategies, by politics, or by snarky social media posts, but rather as we engage in spiritual warfare in prayer.
6. This is not even limited by our physical presence - you can engage in spiritual warfare even during a time of quarantine!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Am I being filled with the Holy Spirit?

1. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit!
2. Of course one must first be a Christian - turn to Him!
3. But as a believer being Spirit-filled is an on-going need and experience, not a once for all event
 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
 Ephesians 5:18
 - a. Paul is speaking to believers, so it is possible for believers to be in a state of not being filled
 - b. Literally - be being filled - this is an ongoing need for all Christians. There is no such thing as a once-for-all time filling
 - c. The question is not "When were you filled with the Spirit" but "Are you filled with the Spirit now?"
4. We need to regularly cry out for a fresh filling with the Holy Spirit!
5. I regularly do this at the end of the meeting

6. We should each cry out to God for this today!

B. Where do I need the Spirit's power most right now?

1. Which of the four areas is my greatest need now?

- a. Zeal and power for God's mission in the earth?
- b. Spiritual gifts to serve others in love?
- c. Empowerment by the Spirit to resist sin, embrace righteousness, and obey God?
- d. Empowerment by the Spirit for spiritual warfare?

2. Let's each ask for a fresh filling, and specifically ask for a particular area of empowerment

C. Response song:

Empowered By the Spirit

Acts 1:8

May 31, 2020

Response Song

Ephesians 1:17-19

Teaching keywords: Holy Spirit; baptism and filling with the Spirit; evangelism and missions; great commission; spiritual gifts; sanctification; spiritual warfare

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better, having the eyes of your heart enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great resurrection power for us who believe.
Ephesians 1:17-19

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. Acts 1:8