

Date: August 4th 2024

Location: Solomon's Porch Hong Kong

Focus: Holy Spirit

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Title: Holy Spirit, I Need You (Part 2)

Introduction:

- Theme: O Come Holy Spirit
 - For what purpose?

“God sees us as we are, loves us as we are, accepts us as we are. But by His grace, **He does not leave us as we are**” Tim Keller

Connect:

- “...praying to him when the **limitations** of our **power** clash with the **greatness** **asked of us.**”

Interrogative:

- Have you ever made your capacity an excuse?
- Have you ever felt powerless to be who God has called you to be?
- Powerless to do what God has called you to do?
- You've looked at your capacity and limitations? All you see is where you fall short?
- I can never be that? I could never do that?

Transition:

- Our challenge is to surrender to God's capacity and ability to be glorified through our own capacity and limitations.

Biblical Truth: I cannot be and do what God has called me to be and do without the Holy Spirit

- SP Mission: To know Him. To be like Him. To make Him known
- It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that enables us to know Him. To be like Him. To make Him known

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

Prayer

- Holy Spirit I need you, I cannot be and do what God has called me to be and do without you Holy Spirit.

REVIEW

ESSENTIALS

1. The Father's Promise
2. The Father's Authority
3. The Father's Empowerment
4. The Father's Mission

Scripture Context: Jesus has died and resurrected, and he gathers his disciples one last time before he ascends to the Father. These are some of Jesus' last words to his disciples.

Scripture: "...wait for the promise of the Father...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." V:4-5

1. The Father's Promise

- a. The Holy Spirit is a person, He is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants the Holy Spirit to all who believe. That is the Father's Promise.
 - i. The Holy Spirit is not a feeling, an energy, a vibe.
 - ii. We can have an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit
- b. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us, comfort us, lead us, give us peace, counsel us, bring conviction of sin, and transform our lives.

Scripture: "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority" v:7

2. The Father's Authority

- a. The disciples longed for the end time when they believed God would restore the kingdom of Israel, how Jesus' vision is for the kingdom of God
 - i. We can get lost in our own kingdom vs Jesus' vision for the kingdom of God?
 - ii. We can get lost in the end time, in what is to come, while we live in the meantime, in the now, the present
 - iii. We surrender our need to know and surrender to God's timing and authority

Transition: What does the present, the here and now require of us? How should we then live our lives? How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:8

ESSENTIALS

1. The Father's Empowerment

BODY

- **The Father's Empowerment**

- a. "But You will RECEIVE POWER"

- i. You

- 1. Who is Jesus talking to? His disciples.

- a. Are you a disciple of Jesus? This word is for you.

- ii. Receive

- 1. It is an act of giving by the Father, it is his promise for us.

- a. He gives for us to receive (to grab hold)

Transition: What does Jesus promise for us to receive? **POWER.**

- iii. **Power:** No ordinary power.

- 1. Dunamis:

- a. It is **strength & ability** to **exert** and **put forth, to carry something into effect.**

- b. Such as **could not be produced by natural agents and means**

- 2. This power is going to give you the strength and ability to do what you cannot do by your own strength and ability.

Transition: This power Jesus refers to cannot be obtained or orchestrated by human will and determination. You receive it...

- b. "When the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

- i. The Holy Spirit has **come upon you**

- 1. The Holy Spirit has come, arrived, to enter, to abide and remain, what has come is namely from Heaven.

- 2. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us he **abides** and **remains** and **brings** about **Heavenly power for our earthly lives**

Summary Transition: How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Conclusion:

- The Holy Spirit helps us to live empowered lives to BE and DO what God has called us to BE and DO by dwelling in us. The source of our empowerment is not **ourselves** but the Holy Spirit.
- However, when we rely on our own ability and capacity, our own self-sufficiency and human will, it will continually leave us burnt out, disappointed, feeling guilty, ashamed, and frustrated.
- Why? Our best efforts cannot begin to equal God's best

The Holy Spirit's Power is Evident in Your Life and Bringing about Change

1. Your affections are being transformed
 2. Your actions are being transformed
 3. You are convicted of righteousness and moved into repentance and restoration
 4. Your spirit confirms that you belong and are a child of God, identity as a child of God
 5. You experience the love of God, the presence of God
 6. You experience the working of the Holy Spirit in your life by having the desire to disobey transformed into obeying and doing what is pleasing to God
 7. The Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control
- Move toward a process mentality
 - View the change and power of the Holy Spirit working in your life with a long view, because change is most often a process and seldom an event.
 - "The comfort of the power of the Holy Spirit is that it begins, not with our natural abilities, but with looking outside of ourselves."

Ministry Time

- Let's begin by looking outside of ourselves and to the Holy Spirit. Invitation to surrender. Let your need be his invitation to come. We need the Holy Spirit's power. Father, I cannot be and do what you have called me to be and do without your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit I need you. I need your help.

Gospel Invitation:

- The good news about what has been done for us and something that we must respond to. We are out of fellowship with God; our relationship with him is broken. Because of sin and God's just punishment of sin incurs God's wrath that we need rescuing from. Sin is the symptom to ultimately all human problems. What Jesus does by laying down his life on the cross is put us into the right relationship with God. It is not about something we do, but about what has been done for us, we must respond.
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COMMUNION

- Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 - "Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst; bringing us into communion with God and with one another; feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom."
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BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
Peace in believing, so that by the power of
the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13)

Notes/Resources

- The New City Catechism: Devotional by Tim Keller & Collin Hansen
- Introducing Christian Doctrine 2nd Edition by Millard Erickson
- Basic. Who is God? Follower's Guide by Francis Chan & Mark Beuving
- <https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-does-acts-18-mean/>
- Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles by Paul D. Tripp