

October 4, 2015

“Unashamed – The Power of God” Part 2

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...” Acts 1:8a

“For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it the power of God...” Romans 1:16

A. The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost...

“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

1. Each believer received their own personal Pentecost...they were set on fire!
2. They were all united in prayer and the Holy Spirit united all those present.
3. Their transformed lives were a testimony to all those around.
4. The believers were unashamed in their devotion and willingness to follow Christ.

B. The Holy Spirit was offered...

1. To Gentile believers.

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.” Acts 10:45-46

2. To John’s believers.

“On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues^[b] and prophesied.” Acts 19:5-6

3. To all who by faith were willing to receive.

“He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.” Acts 15:9

4. To all who want to be fully equipped to follow Him.

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” 2 Peter 1:3

C. The Holy Spirit’s role is...

1. The Holy Spirit is the power to live for Christ.

*“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the **power** to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.” 2 Thessalonians 1:11*

2. The Holy Spirit’s role is the purifying of our hearts.

*“Some of you were once like that. But you were **cleansed**; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:11*

3. The Holy Spirit is the personal Guide through life.

*“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will **guide** you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13*

4. The Holy Spirit is transforming us!

*“And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are **changed** into his glorious image.” 2 Corinthians 3:18b*

D. The Holy Spirit is fully known by our surrender...

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” Romans 12:1-2 The Message

“Faith (trust in God and in His promises) is the only means by which a Christian can live the Spirit-directed life. As you continue to trust Christ moment by moment:

1. Your life will demonstrate more and more of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) and will be more and more conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
2. Your prayer life and study of God’s Word will become more meaningful.
3. You will experience His power in witnessing (Acts 1:8).
4. You will be prepared for spiritual conflict against the world (1 John 2:15-17); against the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17); and against Satan (1 Peter 5:7-9; Ephesians 6:10-13).
5. You will experience His power to resist temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 1:19-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 6:1-16).

Spiritual breathing

By faith you can continue to experience God’s love and forgiveness. If you become aware of an area of your life (an attitude or an action) that is displeasing to the Lord, even though you are walking with Him and sincerely desiring to serve Him, simply thank God that He has forgiven your sins on the basis of Christ’s death on the cross. Claim His love and forgiveness by faith and continue to have fellowship with Him.

If you retake the throne of your life through sin -- a definite act of disobedience -- breathe spiritually.

Spiritual breathing (exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure) is an exercise in faith that enables you to continue to experience God’s love and forgiveness.

1. **Exhale** -- confess your sin -- agree with God concerning your sin and thank Him for His forgiveness of it, according to 1 John 1:9 and Hebrews 10:1-25. Confession involves repentance - a change in attitude and action.
2. **Inhale** -- surrender the control of your life to Christ, and appropriate (receive) the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith. Trust that He now directs and empowers you; according to the command of Ephesians 5:18, and the promise of 1 John 5:14, 15.

By faith claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit, according to:

His Command: Be filled with the Spirit. *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).*

His Promise: He will always answer when we pray according to His will. *“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14, 15).” **

*Dr. Bill Bright