

# Power in the Holy Spirit

## 11. BEING SENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



The promise of scripture is clear, when someone comes to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the person. As a result, they receive "power" from God's Holy Spirit, to complete the task given them to accomplish. Along with the power, the Spirit has a "gift" for the believer to complete the task.

Now the purpose of the gift is not for us to just have ability, but for us to use this new ability to accomplish the work assigned for us. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are designed to accomplish the work of the Spirit, equipping the believer. Therefore, we really need to know what the end game is, what are we trying to accomplish.

Jesus died for our sins, because God so loved the world, God had compassion on humanity, there was no other option to save humanity. Isaiah tells us God looked down upon humanity, and interceded for lost man.

16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.  
Isaiah 59:16-17

Jesus came for us, so we could have a relationship with God, He came to restore fallen humanity and establish His church. So when we come to Christ, is our journey complete or did it just start? We must remember before we knew Christ, we were lost. We had or have no hope outside of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, without any equivocation, there is only one way to Heaven, and that is through the saving work of Christ. If Jesus is the only way to Heaven, when we are saved, what should we do? What does God want us to do?

Jesus gave the church their purpose, in Matthew 28, we are not just to take our salvation for granted, but we are to reach the lost world, with the salvation entrusted to us.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:18-20

For anybody who is saved, and questions their purpose, they need to look no further. We have eternity promised to us, an eternal relationship in Heaven. Jesus in Matthew does not give us the option, but gives us the command, to reach the nations. In verse 18, Jesus declares all authority or power is given me. The Greek word here is *ἐξουσία Exousia*, meaning power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases. The whole universe is under the authority of Jesus, we go forward as His ambassadors in a lost world.

However, we just don't go forward, we go forward in His power and authority. Before Christ departed he specifically told His disciples to remain in Jerusalem, until they received *power* or *Dunamis* from heaven, literally Holy Spirit *dynamite*. This power comes from the Holy Spirit, giving us the ability to accomplish the impossible.

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

When we are under the power and influence of the Spirit, we have the access to the authority of Christ, we go forward with His authority and Power. We have to remember, its not about us, we are operating under the authority and power of Christ. We represent the authority of Heaven on this earth, representing the king of the universe. We have the Holy Spirit as our guarantee, proving our pedigree to earthly powers.

### *Our purpose and mission*

In Genesis chapter 3, the fall of Man is recorded in the same chapter the coming of man's redemption is also foretold. God promises the eventual coming of the seed of the women who will crush (bruise) the head of the serpent. The seed of the women was the Messiah, Jesus Christ who had defeated Satan.

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15

Satan is the enemy of humanity, he hates us, we are made in the image of God, Satan goal is to destroy the lost. The world is involved in a very powerful invisible war, taking place in the spiritual realms. These spiritual realms rule over the kingdoms of humanity. Even though we see a physical governments and struggles, the Bible is clear the battles are taking place in heavenly realms.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

Satan and his fallen angels, are locked in a very real struggle for the souls and minds of humanity. We are the Lord's army in this struggle, we march forward bringing the good news (the Gospel) of salvation to the lost, those under the power of Satan. Now in a secular and skeptical world the talk of Satan and demons (fallen angels) is easily dismissed as myths and superstition. Those who fail to see the spiritual war, are themselves the victim of it. Those of an earthly nature reject the spiritual realms. Satan is called the god of this age, who blind those lost, who do not even know they are lost.

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

So we as followers of Christ, march forward bring the Gospel to the lost, claiming territory for the Kingdom of God in the physical world. This is an amazing job we have been given, more important than any job offered in the kingdoms of humanity. God has entrusted us with the task of advancing His kingdom on the earth, we are operating under his power and authority on both earth and Heaven.



### *The Lost World*

According to the Census Bureau, the population of the earth, as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 numbered approximately 6,573,420,650<sup>1</sup>. Out of this number it is estimated there are about 2 billion Christians in the world, including both Protestants, Orthodox and Catholics. Now out of this number,

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/popclockworld.html>

which includes entire national populations, how many having a saving faith in Jesus Christ?

Some of the most optimistic estimates have the number at saved people about 600-million. That would mean almost 6-billion people are lost. This is an amazing number when we really understand the task. The job has been given to us to bring the gospel to the nations, offering the earth salvation. Jesus has linked his return, to the preaching of the Gospel to the nations. Jesus says,

14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

### *From our Jerusalem*

The Bible records many historical details, the Bible actually uses historical events as teaching illustrations. For instance, Jesus told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the promise. The promise was the Holy Spirit, which would give the disciples the power to present the Gospel. If we look at the verse Acts 1:8 lets a couple of questions to help us understand our purpose and task.

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

- When would they receive power?
- What was the purpose of the power?
- Where would the power begin
- Where would the power go?

The answers to these questions do not only apply to the early church, they apply to all believers. Remember Jesus referred to the gospel of the Kingdom, being preached in all the world, before "the end" comes. The church received power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, the same goes with us. We have power with the Spirit of God. The purpose of this power is to "be witnesses to Me (Jesus)". The power begins right where they are, Jerusalem, the same with us. We have immediate access to this power in "our Jerusalem", right where we are. If we are in the "Spirit" this power will allow us to take the witness of Christ to the ends of the earth, to the nations.

The command to bring the gospel is exactly that, a command. The command is one of urgency because God loves humanity, its not God's will that any should perish, but should come to repentance. He wants us to carry forward the offer of salvation, to the ends of the earth.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

### *Witnessing and Evangelism*

How we came to Christ is our own unique story, told best by us. This is called "witnessing", you are a witness to your own life, how you were changed by the power of the Gospel. Through out the book of Acts and Epistles, we see Paul tell his own personal story, how he came to find Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Israel (Acts 24:11-14). God has given each person their own story of salvation, allowing them to be witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit also gives us a gift, so we might minister to the body of Christ. "Earnestly desire" the gifts, so even if we might not have a particular gift, we can ask God to give us a gift. Paul tells us the more excellent way is to seek the gifts of the Spirit, while having the fruit of the Spirit, "love" (I Corinthians 13)

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. I Corinthians 12:30-31

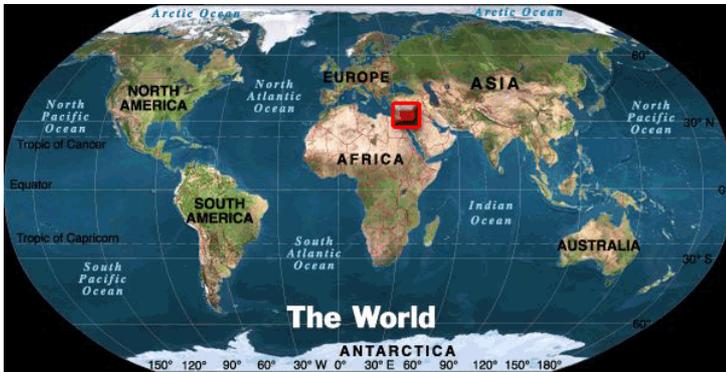
The Greek word for earnestly is **zhlow Zeloo**, is which means to burn with zeal. Remember the purpose of the gift, is not for our selfish purpose, but that the body of Christ might be equipped. God wants to use us, to advance His kingdom. He is looking for those who want to march forward into the raging battle, and claim territory from Satan.

From our "Jerusalem", we need to ask the Lord to equip us to reach our "Samaria", from there the

whole world is within grasp. What is our Samaria? Its the field around us, within reach. We can look for ways to reach those around without having to go to the ends of the earth. First however, we need to want to reach Samaria. Samaria could very well be our training ground for a greater ministry.

*Using our gifts*

We are filled with "dynamite", the power of the Holy Spirit, waiting to be unleashed on a



lost world. How can we progress and proceed from here?

We should start by really asking God, for direction. Ask the Lord to reveal your gift to you. A simple prayer might be:

*Jesus I want to serve you, but I don't where to start or what to do? Please Lord help me to know what I can do? Help me to earnestly seek the gifts, equip me so I can be used by you to reach the world. Give me the fruit of Spirit, Love along with the gift, let me love those around me and in the world. Help me to know where I stand, let me know if there areas of my life, which stand in the way, fill me with your Holy Spirit, give me the power to reach the world!  
Thank you Jesus*

Study the Gifts of the Spirit, where do you feel the Sprit moving you? Many times, through ministry God is testing our heart, so we can see how sincere we are.

<b>Spiritual Gifts</b>
<b>Gift of teaching</b>
This gift is mentioned in Romans 12:7, I Cor. 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11. This involves all manner of teaching, both adults, children and infirmed. What this means is helping understand the principles of God communicating the Word to the body.
<b>Gift of ministering</b>
This is a universal gift among believers; this gift is listed in Romans 12:7, I Cor. 12:28. The gift is one of service. Being able to serve is a gift, because pride often gets in the way, and we don't see the benefit, therefore we loose the blessing of service.
<b>Gift of administration</b>
Administering the or ruling over the body of Christ is a gift located in Romans 12:8, and I Cor. 12:28. Managing the physical property and human resources of a church is a gift from the Spirit. The goal is to build up the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit equips people to manage the affairs in a church to accomplish this goal.
<b>Gift of evangelism</b>
This gift is listed in Ephesians 4:11, evangelism is the communication of the Gospel. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of putting the lost our hearts, and then having a desire to communicate salvation to them. This gift can be coupled with teaching, or someone might be called to evangelize, with others teaching those who come to Christ. This is how the body works.
<b>Gift of being a pastor</b>
This gift is listed in Ephesians 4:11 and is coupled with teacher. The word pastor comes from the Greek word <i>Poimen</i> , meaning herdsman, someone who leads a flock of sheep or shepherd. The pastor is also teacher, but the teacher is not necessarily a pastor. The pastor

leads, provides, protects and cares for the flock. Isaiah says we are all like sheep, God has entrusted people to care for His flock.

#### **Gift of exhortation**

This gift is the one of leadership and action, this gift is listed in Romans 12:8. An exhorter is someone who urges the body forward, encouraging, comforting and admonishing. Someone who looks for struggling and discouraged believers, and works with them to establish them would be an exhorter.

#### **Gift of giving**

Having the ability to give when you have little and much is a gift of the Spirit, listed in Romans 12:8. Jesus used the example of the woman who was poor but gave more than the wealthy because she gave through faith, and out of little. God has blessed some in the body to provide for the rest.

#### **Gift of showing mercy**

This gift is also listed in Romans 12:8, and is the ability to show kindness to the afflicted, to have compassion on the sick, to minister to those who are distraught or weak. To feel their pain and lift them up before the Lord, for example visiting the sick and infirmed at home, the hospital or nursing home.

#### **Gift of faith**

This gift is listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10, and goes along with "word of knowledge" and "word of wisdom". This gift allows someone to trust and encourage others, who might be lacking faith or questioning God. They have an ability to speak the words to help the believer trust in God's provision.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;  
7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;  
8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **Romans 12:6-8**

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. **I Corinthians 12:4-10,28**

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **Ephesians 4:11-12**