

“Powerful Witnesses”
September 25, 2016

CORE: There’s only one way to influence the world with His heart—Zechariah 4:6- “Not by might (*natural ability*) or power (*sheer determination*)—but by My Spirit.”

1. “RECEIVING” HOLY SPIRIT.

John 20:22- Jesus’ first order of business as He met with His disciples post-resurrection: “He breathed on them, and said: ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

- At that moment, the Holy Spirit took up residence “in” them
- Like a “pilot light”—His life sparked within them
- Every born-again believer has the Holy Spirit “in” them
 - “Born of the Spirit” (John 3:6)
 - He “testifies with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16)

2. ...BUT THERE’S MORE!

Jesus said, “Listen carefully. I am sending the Promise of My Father [the Holy Spirit] *upon* you...until you are clothed (fully equipped) with power from on high!” (Luke 24:49 AMP)

- “Father’s promise” to “clothe you with power”
- “Clothe”- *to sink down into; be engulfed by; arrayed with layers of royal garments*
- John the Baptist: “He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Mark 1:8)
 - *A sponge drenched—unable to hold another drop of water*
 - *A cloth dyed—every fiber transformed*
 - *A sunken ship—totally under the influence of the sea*
 - *Be completely enveloped—permeated with*

NOTE: Jesus is looking for a relationship where He can “completely envelope and permeate us.” A “temple” He can abide “IN” (intimacy with us; discover Him) and “UPON” (reflect Him, Lit.- “re-present” Him to the world around us).

3. ACTS 2—THE BEGINNINGS OF A SPIRIT-DRENCHED CHURCH

The restoration of God’s original purpose on the earth→ a people knowing Him fully and carrying His fullness to the world

They were “all filled”—to “fill the whole earth with the knowledge of His glory”!!!

Acts 2:1ff-

“Rushing”-

- *Speed, with force—inwardly motivated*
- *To carry, to bring (announce and supply; bring forward) “gift...promised by the Father” Acts 1:4*
- *To uphold, strengthen—in order to bring into their destiny “you shall receive power...” Acts 1:8*

“Sound”-

- *Roaring waves; continuous (“Filled & continually filled)*
- *‘Rumored’- to spread widely—influencing many*

4. TRANSFORMING INFLUENCE

Jerusalem’s climate changed (From “Crucify Him!” → “What must we do to be saved?”)

- They “spoke of the mighty deeds of God” (Acts 2:11).
- Jerusalem responded to this sound.
- They shone as lights in the darkness—a sharp contrast to the environment.
- Their affection for Jesus was taken to a new level—a love cast out fear!!!

a. BOLDNESS REPLACED COWARDICE (Dove displaced “chicken”)

- Peter declared in the same city he had “denied” Christ.
- The early believers were known as those “so (continually) filled with the Holy Spirit” that they “spoke the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31). They were “astonished” at their “great courage” and “they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

RESPONSE

NOTE: Holy Spirit is tenacious—one who “broods over chaos”.

1. “Not grieve the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 4:30) Total obedience.
2. “Not quench the Holy Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19) Refusing to “stop the flow” through unbelief. Inextinguishably abandoned to trust Him to do the seemingly impossible—knowing that our “supernatural” is His natural!

NOTE: H.S. is given “without limits” (John 3:34)—any limitation is on our part, not His.