

### 3. Understanding the Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

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#### Sub-title: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- We are currently journeying through series of messages about:
  - The Person and the work of the Holy Spirit
- As believers in Christ, we should get to know, not only Jesus as our personal Lord & Saviour, but also the Holy Spirit as our personal Helper
- Every effort on our part in developing a strong relationship with the Holy Spirit will lead to personal gain
- Conversely, any neglect on our part in developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit will be our personal loss
- Living in these last days has become more and more challenging
- The need for the Holy Spirit and His help in our lives is bigger than ever

#### Main points of previous message:

- Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses & deficiencies
- Apostle Paul boasted in his weaknesses to access God's strength
- Holy Spirit helps us by strengthening us in our "inner man"
- Not by might, nor by (human) power, but by my Spirit says the Lord
- We receive power when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit

#### 1. Jesus prepared His Disciples for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- At the last supper, Jesus announced the coming of the Holy Spirit to His disciples
- As previously mentioned, most of Jesus' teaching about the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit are in the gospel of John, chaps. 14, 15 & 16
- After His resurrection, Jesus again speaks to them about the Holy Spirit

**John 20:19–22 (NKJV)** *Then, **the same day at evening, being the first day of the week**, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."** 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, **He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."***

- Previously, before His death, burial & resurrection He said “the Holy Spirit will come ...”
- Now, after His death, burial & resurrection He said: “Receive the Holy Spirit ...”
- (Jesus’ command to “receive the Holy Spirit” applies to every Christian)
- Vs. 22. ... He breathed on them & said: Receive the Holy Spirit ...
- This gesture has connections to Genesis 2:7 where God breathed the breath (spirit) of life into Adam’s body, which He had formed from the dust of the ground
- Spirit – Heb. ruach – also translated “wind”
- Jesus, in a sense, had “formed” the (nucleus of) Body of Christ during His earthly ministry
- Now, He is breathing on them to receive the Holy Spirit

## **2. Jesus’ final words about the Holy Spirit before His Ascension**

**Acts 1:4–5, 8 (NKJV)** And being assembled together with them, **He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; **5** for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” .... **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.”

- Notice again, Jesus commanded them:
  - do not depart from Jerusalem
  - wait for the Promise of the Father (Holy Spirit)
  - you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now
  - you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you
- In the same way as Adam needed the breath of life to fulfil God’s purposes, so we, the Body of Christ, need the Holy Spirit to fulfil God’s purposes

**Acts 1:9 (NKJV)** *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

## **3. The Disciples begin a 10 day prayer meeting after Jesus Ascension**

**Acts 1:12–14 (NKJV)** *Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew*

and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. **14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**

- They did what Jesus had commanded that
- They returned to Jerusalem & waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit
- They went to the upper room & began a prayer meeting that lasted about ten days

#### **4. The initial Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost**

- The word '**Pentecost**' comes from the Greek word pentecoste and it means '**fiftieth day**' (pente – five)
- In Jewish time-reckoning, the Day of Pentecost falls on the fiftieth day after Passover
- **Jesus died at the time of Passover (Easter)** (1 Cor. 5:7)
- After His resurrection, He appeared to His disciples over a period of 40 days (Acts 1:3)
- Therefore, the prayer meeting in the Upper Room lasted approx. 7 to 10 days
- There was an expectation & anticipation about the arrival of the Holy Spirit, although, they weren't quite sure what to expect
- Interesting, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus Christ at His baptism in Jordan river, He came like a dove (Matt. 3:16)
- On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came in quite a different way

**Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV) *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***

- The Holy Spirit didn't come early, nor He didn't come late
- He came when the day of Pentecost had fully come
- The believers were all on one accord in one place, about 120 of them
- Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind
- It filled the whole house where they were gathered together

- Then, there appeared to them divided tongues (flames) of fire, and one sat upon each of them
- Vs. 4. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues
- Notice, all were filled, and all spoke in tongues
- ... as the Spirit gave them utterance

## 5. **A subsequent Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Cornelius' house**

- The initial Outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place on the day of Pentecost, in one locality, namely Jerusalem
- Since then, there have been multiple Outpourings of the Holy Spirit, in multiple localities
- Cornelius, a devout Roman Centurion, was stationed in Caesarea
- An angel appeared to him and instructed him to call for Simon Peter, who was staying in Joppa at the time
- Around that same time, Peter had a vision from God, and the Spirit told him that three men would come and ask him to visit Cornelius
- When Peter and his companions arrived at Cornelius' house, he began to preach the gospel to them

**Acts 10:44–48 (NKJV) *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.***

- The Holy Spirit never waited for Peter's sermon to finish
- He fell upon those who heard the Word (Cornelius' household)
- They got saved and baptised with the Holy Spirit at the same time
  - Salvation happens when we repent of our sins & commit our life to Jesus Christ
  - The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is an additional (secondary) experience where we receive power to be a witness for Jesus Christ
  - The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is evidenced by speaking in tongues