

**Title:** Empowered By The Holy Spirit

**Passage:** Acts 1:6-11

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [see Ezekiel 37] He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### **Introduction:**

- Disciples asked about the full restoration of Israel

Ezekiel 37:9 (prophesied in Valley of Bones passage)

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

- Jesus' response: the kingdom of God will be established and empowered through the Holy Spirit.

- Question: What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit?

### **Overview:**

I. Holy Spirit is God, Third Person of the Trinity.

II. Holy Spirit's work through Human History.

III. Holy Spirit's work through Jesus

IV. Holy Spirit's work in the believer

## **I. Holy Spirit is God, Third Person of the Trinity.**

### **A. Holy Spirit is a Person**

John 14:17

even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

- The Holy Spirit is referenced as a "He" and as a Person

- How know Holy Spirit is a Person? One who has...

#### **1) intellect**

Romans 8:27

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

#### **2) emotion**

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

#### **3) volition** - ability to determine/act decisively

Acts 13:2

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

### **B. The Holy Spirit is God**

- How divine? He is...

#### **1) all-knowing**

Isaiah 40:13-14

Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

**2) omnipresent**

Psalms 139:7-8

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**3) omnipotent**

Zechariah 4:6

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

**4) eternal**

Hebrews 9:14

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**5) truth**

John 16:13

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

**6) holy**

Acts 5:3-4

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

## **II. Work of the Holy Spirit through Human History.**

### **A. Active in creation**

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Psalms 104:30

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

### **B. Active in Revealing God's Word**

2 Peter 1:20-21

knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- without the Holy Spirit, we cannot optimally understand God's Word (merely seeing it as an academic exercise)

### **C. Role of Divine Care and Guidance**

Isaiah 63:11

Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

- Holy Spirit placed in the midst of Israel to provide divine care

### **D. Governing**

- given to guide people in governing as leaders (ex: Moses, Gideon, Saul, David, etc.)

Psalms 51:11 (plea by David for Holy Spirit's continued guidance)

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

### **E. Represents His Divine Presence and Implements God's Plan**

- at work and preparing the way for Jesus

### **III. Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus.**

- before Pentecost, Jesus was under the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

#### **A. From Birth**

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

#### **B. Baptism**

- the start of Jesus' ministry

Mark 1:10-11

And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

#### **C. Temptations**

- the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness and empowered Jesus through temptation

Luke 4:1-2

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

Luke 4:13-15

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

#### **D. Miraculous Works**

- Jesus recites Isaiah 61

Luke 4:20-21

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

- Jesus' work on the cross

Hebrews 9:11-14

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

- How can you carry your own cross? Never on your own. We are given a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- Why important? Jesus lived under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit. Likewise, we should follow Christ's example and give ourselves fully in obedience to the Holy Spirit. We will then glorify and exalt God.

### **IV. Holy Spirit's work in the believer**

#### **1) convicts us of sin.**

- if you are convicted of sin, it is because of the Holy Spirit's work in your life.

John 16:7-8

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

- you can never convict another person of sin. It is only by the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

### **2) unites us with Christ**

John 17:20-21

I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

### **3) empowers us with gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Romans 12:6a

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them

### **4) comforts, helps, guides**

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

### **5) keeps us from falling away/ seals us for the return of Christ**

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

*Caution:* We often don't realize the power and privilege of having the Holy Spirit in you.

- If you are a Christian, you have God's presence wherever you are.

- You can live in close relationship with God through God's Word. Be empowered to live for Him and His glory, counter to the world's culture.

- Reset mind and perspective from things of this world to things of eternal worth (not like the disciples asking for worldly kingdom but instead of God's kingdom)

Live under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit every day, every moment.

- do not leave merely convicted but leave to be transformed.

### **Other Verses Shared During Service:**

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

Psalms 92:1-5

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!