

## Power Aide

Welcome.. We are in a series called All In

We are exploring what God's Word says about the Holy Spirit This is the second of three weeks that we are looking at The Flash Point that occurred at Pentecost... When Jesus sent them the Holy Spirit

As we continue the story today.. Before we get too amped up talking about tongues, prophecy, and miracles We want to make sure that we understand why the Holy Spirit was sent to them and us

Today...I want us to look at the most important reason...we need the Holy Spirit Let's dive back in...

Acts 1:8 (ESV) 8 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."

You will receive power Jesus told His Disciples right before He ascended to heaven... I know you are scared..I know you want me to stay...I know you feel overwhelmed But you will receive power...my Power...power from on High I am sending God-sized Power... Because I am giving you a God-sized mission

In fact..if you try to go accomplish this task on your own... You will fail... Every man made attempt to do God's work fails Do you dare go out there...until you have my power...My Holy Spirit in you

Note the reason for the power You will be my witnesses

Also note that He did not say you will be witnesses He said "my Witnesses" You could easily go out on your own...and tell your story But what you are going to witness to...is My story.

I am going to use you...to tell the story I want to tell The power that I am going to send to you Will allow you to tell the world... About me..about what the Father and I are doing Receiving the Holy Spirit is not about you...Its about me

The power...the gifts...they are not about you...they are about me

When you repented...when you gave your life to me Everything about you...became about me So I am sending you power...for one purpose... To use your life..to show me to the world

You will be my witnesses.... I am going to use you... To reveal...Me

So Jesus told them to go to Jerusalem.... Acts 1:4-5 (ESV) 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father

The Promise of the Father? What promise? What has the Father been promising? We read that verse and blow right through it... But to those who had studied the Scriptures.... The Promise of the Father was specific to them

God had promised a Messiah...Jesus came But there was another promise that had not yet been fulfilled Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would come to them They actually had been expecting Him

One Day the Spirit of God would come... God promised...not only a Messiah.... Throughout the Old and New Testament God had promised to one day pour out His Spirit on His people In the OT in Hebrew He was called... The Spirit or the Spirit of God

Let me quickly show you some examples...

#### Old Testament

Isaiah 32:15-17 (ESV) 15 until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. 16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. 17 And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

Isaiah 44:3 (ESV) 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV) 26 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. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Zechariah 12:10 (ESV) 10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Joel 2:28-29 (ESV) 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Jesus' Echoed this Promise In the NT in Greek...He is called the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:13 (ESV) 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 24:49 (ESV) 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

John 14:26 (ESV) 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 15:26 (ESV) 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

Acts 1:8 (ESV) 8 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."

Just like at Pentecost the Jewish People.... Anticipated that God would show His power... They also had good reason to believe that God would... One day pour out His Spirit upon his followers

When Jesus said "wait for the Promise of the Father" They knew..He was talking about The Spirit of God So as they headed to Pentecost...they were praying for God's Spirit... And God's power... They didn't know what to expect...but they were full of anticipation They were desperate...they wanted whatever Jesus was going to send them

Go to Jerusalem and wait... We have been taught that it was in the Upper Room But that is not totally clear

Acts 1:12-14 (ESV) 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. 13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying... 14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:15 (ESV) 15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said,

Peter goes on to lead them to replace Judas With another disciple...Matthias Then we get to the passage we are all familiar with....

Acts 2:1 (ESV) 2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

Note the time shift...when the Day of Pentecost came... In the upper room, they likely quickly replaced Judas.. It was probably the first thing they did. They were angry. So at first they went to the upper room, but the Day of Pentecost we learned last week was perhaps 10 days later.

It is unclear if the "they" in this verse represents all 120 or just the disciples. Most scholars believe it was most of the remaining 120 The Word says that they were all together...in One Place

On the Day of Pentecost.... Where do Jewish people go on the Feast Days? Where would they be where people of all nations would be nearby? Where would this moment cause the most commotion?

In Exodus...God descended on Mt Sinai...and then a bit later Descended upon the Tabernacle (the Temple) So it would make sense that the arrival of the Holy Spirit would come to the Temple On Mt Zion

The Book of Luke and Acts Were written by Luke...the are a two volume set. Luke wrote a two volume narrative... The Book of Luke and then the book of Acts

Luke 24:50-53 (ESV) 50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Jesus has ascended...they went to Jerusalem... Initially to the upper room to replace Judas.. But Luke tells us that they were continually... In the temple blessing God.

Then as he moves into the sequel...just 14 verses later...

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Look at some other comparison verses...

Acts 2:1 (ESV) 2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:46 (NIV)Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

Most likely Temple Courts were their meeting place....not the upper room Let me share with you why I believe it was at the Temple...just my opinion...No emails please.

All the Activities of Pentecost... Were at the Temple Temple **Photo 1** The Holy of Holies and Jewish Court is in the center The Outer court could hold 210,000 people Do you see the covered Porch over on the Left? That is called Solomons' **Portico Temple Photo 2**, Solomon's Portico is in the Gentile Courts....The Jewish Temple allowed Gentiles into the outer courts but not into the Jewish part of the Temple.

It was a common place of shade and rest Here is the artists rendition of Jesus there...**Photo 3** Solomon's Portico was best known from Acts 3 In Just a few days after Pentecost... The portico was the scene of Christ's teaching at the Feast of Dedication (John 10:23), and Peter gave a sermon there after his healing of the lame man (Acts 3:11). The early church gathered and the apostles performed miracles there (Acts 5:12).

Acts 3:1-2 (ESV) 3 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

The Gate Beautiful. The main entrance into the Jewish Temple area. **PHOTO 4** Peter and John would heal a lame man... He would get up and run to this Portico telling everyone what God had done He was leaping and praising what God had done

Acts 3:11 (ESV) 11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.

Why did He run to that Portico? **PHOTO 5** It would have been more natural you would think to run into the Temple toward the Holy Of Holies. Toward the Jewish Court. Through the Gate Beautiful...Yet He runs to the Portico.....why?

I think it was because just a few days earlier... He was lame..sitting and begging on the steps by the beautiful gate Photo 4 He surely would have been there on the day of Pentecost I think he looked over when the Spirit of God fell And could not go over there.

The whole place was stirred up... But he was lame and left out... God had forgotten about Him

Then when He is miraculously healed...where does he run? He runs to Solomon's Portico.... To tell them that what started a few days ago..is still happening And It is for Him as Well... Just my opinion...but I think he ran there...because that is where God stuff happens

I think something symbolic is happening here too. The Jewish Courts...the Sacrifices...The Holy Of Holies...all represented the old covenant through the Law. You entered into the Jewish Court through the Gate Beautiful. But God was brining a New Covenant....A covenant that is for all people....Not found in the Jewish Courts alone....but in the area of the Gentiles....in the area where everyone could experience God.

This believer....healed in the Holy Spirit...runs....symbolically from the restrictions of the Old Law to the freedom of the Grace and Mercy of the Gospel.

He stirs up the crowd...just like had happened a few days earlier People are drawn to Solomon's Portico by the Miraculous of God

**Acts 3:11-12 (ESV) 11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"**

Peter uses the miraculous gift of healing.. A new gift from the Holy Spirit.. In order to use that power to share the gospel You can read His sermon in Acts 3 But this time...the temple guards are ready.

**Acts 4:1-3 4 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.**

Peter and John are arrested.. But look at the next verse

**Acts 4:4 (ESV) 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

Peter's First Sermon...3000 Peter's Second Sermon...5000 the Power of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated in order to advance the Gospel. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit falls on you...and you will be my witnesses.

Key Point **The Only Reason we are to use the power of the Holy Spirit Is to point other people to Jesus.**

In fact...the primary thing the Holy Spirit does...is Glorify Jesus If anything is being done...that does not point to Jesus...and lead the lost to hear the Gospel.. Be cautious attributing it to the Holy Spirit.

Peter did not say...he come back at 7... I have the healing gift.. Bring all the sick..I will heal them... Look at what I have done...Look at how Spiritual I am.

For just a love offering of 10 denari...come back and I will heal you too. Or if you can't wait...here are my handkerchiefs...I have blessed them for healing...only 8 denari.

No...The Miraculous Miracle of the Healing Served one primary purpose...to draw people together... To hear the Gospel...so they can be saved.

The Greatest Miracle was not the healing...The Greatest Miracle is the Gospel Message

We tend to focus on the one who needs to be healed And the Bible teaches us to pray for healing...nothing wrong with that But when the Holy Spirit decides to heal... It is for the purpose of giving Jesus the glory... So that those seeking Him can find him. Remember how this story ends.

**Acts 4:4 (ESV) 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

**Acts 2:2-3 (ESV) 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.**

Let's read this carefully... What happened was sudden... A sound came...that was clearly from Heaven Not of this earth like a mighty rushing wind

Note the word house...the same word in the OT and NT from the Greek is translated more commonly not as house... But as House of God Don't miss the symbolism...the Spirit of God..filling the House of God

The same thing happened in Exodus... In Exodus 40 Moses is instructed to Build a Tabernacle **(Photo 1)** It was the precursor to the temple That would be built on Mt Zion It held the ark of the covenant.. It became the gathering place God gave very specific instructions on how to build it Then when it was completed...God came to the Nation of Israel in a cloud and fire **(Tabernacle Photo 2)**

**Exodus 40:34 (ESV) 34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**

God descended and his presence was with the Nation of Israel Now 1500 years later...God once again is descending upon His temple

But this time there is a huge difference. **Acts 2:3-4 (ESV) 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**

This time God's presence was not with the Nation of Israel This time the presence of God filled the room... But then His Spirit and Fire...Rested on each one of them

His presence rested on each person... Because of the Work of Jesus.... God would no longer be with His people His Spirit would forever be IN his people.

And that subtle difference...meant everything This time the Spirit would descend on each person This time the promise is not just with a nation... It is with each one of us personally

So I wonder if you recognize yourself in this story? I do this a lot when I am studying Scripture. God where am I in this story? Am I one of the disciples? Am I Peter preaching the sermon to thousands?

And the more I study this Scripture, the more I see that I am the paralyzed man.

For the longest time in my life, I sat outside of the church looking to other people for my needs, my provision, and my approval. I was paralyzed and I knew it.

I was empty and isolated spiritually. I saw people going to church....going to see God....but I knew I didn't belong....didn't have whatever it was. They seemed spiritually connected and I was not.

Day after day I sat outside the church spiritually and I knew I was unable to move Spiritually. It seemed like God was for others and not for me. I didn't know what I needed, but I knew there was a deep hole in my spiritual life and I didn't know how to fill it.

I saw the church people who were so excited about God. So pumped up after they worshiped, so excited about their relationship with Jesus....I just didn't get it. I grew up in church and honestly never felt like they did. I had guessed that this God thing was just not for me.

Like the paralyzed man, I too looked to other humans to help me and maybe provide for me. I tried all kinds of power...all kinds of things to fix my problems. But the power we need is not in an energy drink....it is not in anything found in this world. The only power that transforms us and give us what we really need in the Holy Spirit.....and this paralyzed man is about to discover what true healing is all about.

Acts 3:3-6 (ESV) 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.

Odd....just like the paralyzed man, I thought silver and gold was what I needed. I thought it was the answer to my problems. I chased money most of my life...I worshiped it...craved it...hoarded it and made an altar and God out of it. Imagine the disappointment this man must have felt. Paralyzed unable to help himself and Peter and John tell him they don't have any money.

Like the paralyzed man....I didn't know what I really needed. All I knew what I was empty, everything seems to lack purpose and God had given up on me.

Imagine the paralyzed man....hearing these words...

Acts 3:6 (ESV) 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

In the name of Jesus....Dance!

In the name of Jesus....DANCE!

Really? I can do that? God has a place for me?

When the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples they spoke in tongues....To this man the Holy Spirit brought healing.

Acts 3:7-10 (ESV) 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

He ran..He walked...He danced...He leaped...and He moved to the House of God....To Solomon's Portico....He moved toward God...Healed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now remember, the Holy Spirit only does one thing....He points to Jesus. Notice what happened as the Holy Spirit transformed this man's life. He didn't heal the man....just to heal the man....The Holy Spirit always advances the message of the Gospel.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The Holy Spirit used this miracle this healing....to prepare hearts for the Word.

Acts 3:11-12 (ESV) 11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"

If the Holy Spirit can reach people through tongues....they will speak in tongues....If He can reach people through prophecy....He will use believers to prophecy. In this moment....it was healing that was most effective and thus Peter and John exhibited the gift of Healing.

Notice something that is often missed here....this man was not randomly healed....He believed and then He was healed. He likely saw the excitement in the portico on Pentecost and could not get over there. But He believed and was saved.

Acts 3:15-16 (ESV) 16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.



Perfect Health.....not just physically....but also Spiritually.

Peter tells them....Just like this paralyzed man....there is a place for you too.

Acts 3:19–20 (ESV) 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,  
20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

I have sat outside God's blessings....paralyzed in my fear....feeling empty....and then completely transformed by faith in the name of Jesus.

I have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit....felt's His gifts flow though me....and seen God reach other people as the Holy Spirit speaks through me to heart He has prepared.

Maybe that heart is yours. I don't have gold or silver....but I can tell you that in the Name of Jesus...you too can walk....and run....and dance....