

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 8 – The Holy Spirit & Power (Part 1)

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Introduction

There are many who mistakenly attach the Holy Spirit and power with the spectacular, mysterious, and miraculous. It is not the power to speak in tongues or to heal broken limbs but a power that enables us to become like Jesus in character and mission.

I. The Impossible – Why We Need Holy Spirit Power

The teachings and commands of Jesus (ex. Matthew 5-7) to never be angry, to never lust, to always forgive, to never judge unrighteously, to love your enemies, etc. are simply impossible to achieve with our own strength. Why would Jesus demand the impossible?

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan into the promised land with the intent of continuing on conquering all the nations currently in the land it was a task that was simply impossible for a group of slaves with no military background to accomplish. The report of the 10 spies was accurate. The enemy was bigger, stronger and more numerous. Why would God give them a task that was impossible to accomplish?

The reason is that we would depend totally on Him and not ourselves! God is able but we are not. That is the point. That is why we need the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is grace to the fullest!

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NAS): For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

The power of the Holy Spirit indwells in us and this is not something we can see or grasp easily because it isn't spectacular and miraculous. It is seen in faith.

*2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (NAS): For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, **beyond our strength**, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would **not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead**; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us*

We can't do God's will without God's power. If we could face our own challenges whether physical, emotional, or spiritual with our own ingenuity, finances, wisdom, resources, and determination we wouldn't need to trust God.

II. Holy Spirit Power In Practice

Does this sound like a contradiction in terms? James 1:2 (NAS): Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials. Romans 5:3 says we are to rejoice in our sufferings.

This is a struggle because this seems unreasonable. What James calls us to do is impossible under our own strength. Where is the joy in trials? It is not found in the trials themselves but what those trials produce – endurance, perfection, and completion. In the power of the Holy Spirit we can find joy because our focus is not on the trials but on what God wants to accomplish for you.

*1 Thessalonians 1:6 (NAS): You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with **the joy of the Holy Spirit**,*

Romans 14:17 (NAS): for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:20 (NAS): Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

It is the Holy Spirit that empowers us with the ability to do all that God desires for us. It is by faith we utilize the power that comes from the Holy Spirit. It enables us to do the impossible.

Next week Part 2 The Holy Spirit & Power

We have been empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit to...

1. Put to death the deeds of the flesh – to be able to overcome our sinful desires.
2. To live Christ centered and cross centered lives rather than self-centered ones by being molded into the image of Jesus.
3. To have the love of God poured into our hearts.
4. To grasp or wrap our minds around the circumference of the love of Christ.
5. To offer up ourselves as living sacrifices and to be transformed.
6. To do good deeds.
7. To be obedient.
8. To fight off the forces of evil.