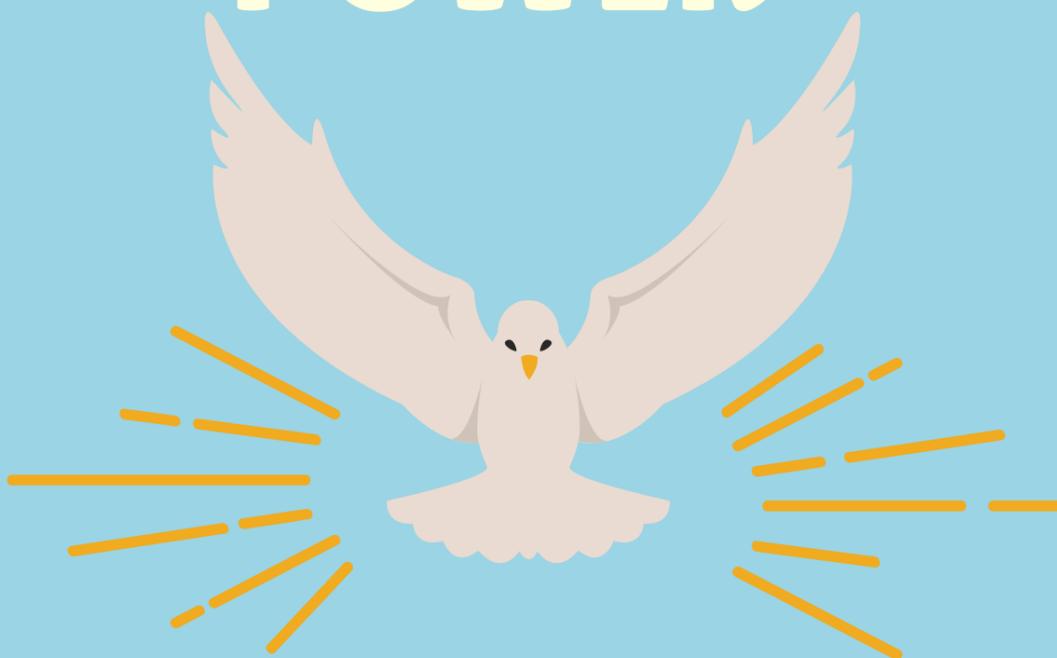


**ST. MATTHEW AME CHURCH  
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP  
SPRING SERIES:**

# **"I'VE GOT THE POWER"**



**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."  
Acts 1:8 NIV**

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Orange, N.J.**

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**Women's Bible Study Fellowship  
Saturday, April 9, 2022**

**Spring Series: "I've Got the Power"**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 NIV

**Session 1: "You are Never Alone"**

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever." John 14:16

**Introduction**

Written by Luke as a sequel to his Gospel, the book of Acts is an accurate historical record of the early church. But Acts is also a theological book, with lessons and living examples of the work of the Holy Spirit, church relationships and organization, the implications of grace and the law of love. The Holy Spirit is mentioned at least 90 times in the New Testament.

The book of Acts begins with the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit and the commencement of the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This Spirit-inspired evangelism began in Jerusalem and eventually spread to Rome, covering most of the Roman empire. The gospel first went to the Jews; but they, as a nation, rejected it. A remnant of Jews, of course, gladly received the Good News. But the continual rejection of the gospel by the vast majority of the Jews led to the ever-increasing proclamation of the gospel to the Gentiles. This was according to Jesus' plan: the gospel was to go from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Because of the Holy Spirit, God's people were empowered so they could accomplish their tasks. Power from the Holy Spirit is not limited to strength beyond the ordinary-that power also involves courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability and authority.

God's presence and power dwell in believers in the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive power to witness after they received the Holy Spirit.

1. They would receive the Holy Spirit.
2. He would give them power.
3. They would witness with extraordinary results.

Often, we try to reverse the order and witness by our own power and authority. Witnessing is not showing what we can do for God. It is showing and telling what God has done for us.

***I. The Promise***

•Jesus was soon going to leave the disciples, but he would remain with them. How could this be? The Counselor-the Spirit of God himself-would come after Jesus was gone to care for and guide the disciples. The regenerating power of the Spirit came on the disciples just before Jesus' ascension.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you! "After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. John 20:19-20

"Again, Jesus said, Peace be with you! "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22

- This may have been a special filling of the Holy Spirit for the disciples, a foretaste of what all believers would experience from the time of Pentecost (Acts 2) and forever after.
- Man was created, but did not come alive until God breathed in him the breath of life.

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7

### ***THERE IS LIFE IN THE BREATH OF GOD!***

- God's first breath made man different from all other forms of creation. Now through the breath of Jesus, God imparted eternal, spiritual life.

Jesus told the disciples, "unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." John 16:5

- If Jesus did not go back to the Father, the Holy Spirit would not come. Christ's presence on earth was limited to one place at a time. His leaving meant he could be present in the whole world through the Holy Spirit.

## ***II. Just Receive Him***

- The Holy Spirit is the third person in the triune Godhead.
- The Holy Spirit is still available to empower believers today.
- It is not a matter of God giving us the Holy Spirit. It is a matter of our receiving the Holy Spirit.
- The receiving of the Holy Spirit is for believers.
- The Holy Spirit indwells believers at the moment of salvation.

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession- to the praise of his glory."

- Receiving the Holy Spirit is not just an experience, but it is a Divine personality coming to dwell in us, to make his home in our bodies.

Paul says in I Corinthians 3:16, "Know yet not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

- When we call a building the House of God, we are partly correct and partly incorrect.
- If we mean the building is a house of God because God lives and dwells there, we are wrong. God does not dwell in a building. If we mean that it is God's house and is sacred because it is built in the Name of Jesus and is dedicated to the service of the Lord, then we are right--it is a House of God. God doesn't live in a building made with hands. He lives and dwells in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- To wait for the Holy Spirit that has already been given as a free gift, only produces doubt and indecision.

### ***III. By Faith***

- The Bible says "For we walk by faith, not by sight,"(II Corinthians 5:7)
- We must believe what the Word of God says, regardless of what our feelings may be. If God's word says "we shall receive power", we must believe it, even when we feel that we don't have it. Instead of believing what the Bible says, too many people believe only what they feel.
- Feeling is the voice of the flesh. If you are walking by feeling, you are dominated by flesh.
- You can't walk by feeling and be a victorious Christian.

### ***IV. Abide Forever***

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. "

John 14:16

Jesus said"...that he may abide with you forever. "

- He didn't come as a guest to stay for just a few days.
- He didn't come on vacation. He came to dwell in you, to be at home in you.
- The teaching of the New Testament is that the Holy Spirit's indwelling is permanent. We cannot lose the Holy Spirit.
- When it's just an experience with people, they talk about "it" the outward manifestation, and they miss the reality of His indwelling presence.
- We should be conscious of his presence.
- While the Holy Spirit will never leave believers, it is possible for our sin to "quench the Holy Spirit " or "grieve the Holy Spirit."(I Thess.5:19, Ephesians 4:30)
- We can quench the Holy Spirit when we as believers do not allow the Holy Spirit to be seen in our actions, we suppress the Holy Spirit. We should not ignore the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us.
- We can make the Holy Spirit sorrowful when:
  1. We use foul and abusive language.
  2. We show bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
  3. We are sexually immoral.
- Sin always has consequences in our relationship with God. While our relationship with God is secure in Christ, unconfessed sin in our lives can hinder our fellowship with God and effectively quench the Holy Spirit's working in our lives. It is so important to confess our sins because God is "faithful and just" and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9)
- So, while the Holy Spirit will never leave us, the benefits and joy of His can in fact depart from us, due to sin.

SOME BELIEVERS CONSTANTLY TALK ABOUT THEIR LACK OF POWER. IF THEY REALIZED THAT GOD IS IN THEM, THEY WOULD KNOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE TO THEM.

### **Looking Ahead**

*May 14, 2022: "Let Him Do His Job"*

*June 11, 2022:"You Are More Than Enough"*