

St. Matthew AME Church
Orange, N.J.
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Women's Bible Study Fellowship
Saturday, May 14, 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 II: "Let Him Do His Job"

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) to be with you forever. " John 14:16 Amplified Bible

I. Review of Background

The book of Acts is an accurate historical record of the early church. The book of Acts begins with the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit and the commencement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The book of Acts also begins where the Gospels leave off, reporting on the actions of the apostles and the work of the Holy Spirit. Beginning in Jerusalem, the church is established and grows rapidly, then faces intense persecution, which drives the believers out into the surrounding areas. 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-the Holy Spirit also involves courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability and authority.

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

- Jesus was still on the earth for 40 days after the resurrection, then he ascended into heaven. The regenerating power of the Holy Spirit came on the disciples just before Jesus' ascension. 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 (50 days after the resurrection) and forever.

- 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. John 16:5

II. Review of Session I: "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

- 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. "Ephesians 1:13-14

- 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.

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

- By faith we don't have to wait for the Holy Spirit to come, the Holy Spirit has already been given to us as a free gift.
- The Holy Spirit's indwelling is permanent. We cannot lose the Holy Spirit.
- Some see the Holy Spirit as an experience, they talk about "it" the outward manifestation and they miss the reality of His indwelling presence.
- Some believers live their lives, unaware of His presence. Jesus changes your view when you are aware 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. "

*"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.
"Ephesians 4:30-31*

•If we submit to the Holy Spirit, He will peel away our sinful characteristics and replace them with Godly characteristics.

" Quench not the Spirit." I Thessalonians 5:19

- Don't smother your gift. This impoverishes the church.
- The Holy Spirit will never leave us, the benefits and joy of His can in fact depart from us when we quench or grieve the Holy Spirit.

III."Let Him Do His Job"

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) to be with you forever. " John 14:16 Amplified Bible

*"But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth."
John 16:13 NIV*

• If there is a misunderstood member of the Triune God, it is the Holy Spirit. His behind-the-scenes role in the plan of God may be due to His status as "Spirit"- a state less concrete than "Father" or "Son." Yet it is a deficiency in our understanding that we know less of the Holy Spirit than we do of God the Father or Jesus the Son.

•In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit's ministry was temporary and task specific. He was present at creation (Gen.1:2), mediated God's moral and ethical will on earth (Gen.6:3) was active among God's people as a nation (Hag.2:5) and as individuals (I Samuel 16:13) and inspired the prophets of God to reveal God's word and will verbally and in writing (Nehemiah 9:30; Ezek.2:2)

•The Holy Spirit in the OT came upon individuals in power to accomplish tasks and purposes, but did not dwell permanently within people.

•The Holy Spirit's role changed significantly in the New Testament. His ministry in the Old Testament was primary task-driven, in the New Testament, His ministry became people-driven. The giving of the Spirit changed everything in man's ability to live a life pleasing to God.

• The Spirit's ministry to the Christian is multifaceted. The Greek word Jesus used to describe the Spirit, translated "Helper" is derived from a verb meaning "to come alongside."

• The Holy Spirit comes alongside the Christian as a helper, comforter, advocate, intercessor-counselor, strengthener, and standby.

IV. "He Is Our Helper"

•The Holy Spirit is our guide. He will guide us into all truth (John16:13) Not only will He guide us into all truth, but as Jesus said, "Thy word is truth." He will also guide us into the truth about God's word. The Holy Spirit is also going to guide us in life. We must be willing to allow Him to guide us.

Many have gotten into a mess in their lives, because they are not following the GUIDE. We must seek His guidance.

- The Holy Spirit is our comforter. This comfort we receive from the Holy Spirit is far more than a passing relief of sympathy. This comfort pictures one who stands beside us in the midst of struggle to encourage and support. The Holy Spirit will comfort us also in the midst of adversity.

- The Holy Spirit is our intercessor/advocate. As a believer, we are not left to our own resources to cope with problems. Even when you don't know the right words to pray or say, the Holy Spirit prays and speaks for us and God responds. With God (Holy Spirit) helping us to pray, you don't need to be afraid to come before Him.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts, knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." Romans 8:26-27

- The Holy Spirit is our counselor. The word translated, Counselor combines the ideas of comfort and counsel. The Holy Spirit is a powerful person on our side working for and with us. The Holy Spirit listens to us, He is non-judgmental and He is also patient with us. By counseling us, the Holy Spirit gives us advice that will help us to be our best selves.

- The Holy Spirit is out standby. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to be our help especially in emergencies. The Holy Spirit is ready or always available.

" God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble." Psalm 46:1 New Living Translation

- The Holy Spirit is our strengthener. The strength that the Holy Spirit gives us reflects in the natural as well as the supernatural.

"I pray that out of His glorious riches. He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being." Ephesians 3:16

LOOKING AHEAD
Session III:"YOU ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH"
Saturday, June 11,2022