

## YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER

**TEXT: ACTS 1:1-8**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. A. J. Gordon was a Baptist pastor in Boston. He used to tell a story about an American taking a friend from England to see Niagara Falls.
2. The American said to his friend, "Come, and I'll show you the greatest unused power in the world." And taking him to the foot of Niagara Falls, he said, "There – is the greatest unused power in the world!"
3. "Ah, no my brother, not so!" was the friend's reply. "The greatest unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God."
4. That man as right. David said, "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God."
5. Power belongeth to God, and Jesus said to His disciples, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." (Acts 1:8).
6. Our Lord made an interesting statement, when He said in John 14:12, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."
7. The disciples would do "greater works" through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (cf. John 14:12, 16, 17).
8. This is emphasized in John 14—16 (cf. 15:26, 27; 16:7-15).
9. Zechariah 4:6 says, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."
10. Robert Neighbour said, "The factory may be splendidly equipped, but of what use is it all, unless there is power to turn the wheels? The train may stand on the track with every comfort that modern ingenuity can provide, but of what value is it unless the fire is under the boiler, and the power is at hand to run the train?"
11. Let us look at The Promise, the Baptism, and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

### **I. THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1:4)**

1. The promise of the Holy Spirit, referred to here in Acts 1:4, is referred to throughout the four Gospels (cf. Luke 11:13).

2. In Luke 24:49, our Lord said to His disciples, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."
3. "Endued" (Luke 24:49) means to be clothed, possessed, enveloped.
4. Today, many Christians understand that they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but they seem to know very little about being endued with power from on high.
5. In fact, it is foreign to many Christians. They only have a theoretical knowledge of the Holy Spirit.
6. In Luke 24:49, our Lord refers to "the promise of my Father" (cf. John 14:16; 15:26), and we see that same term in Acts 1:4. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4).
7. In John 16:7, our Lord said it was expedient for the disciples that He would go back to heaven (cf. Acts 1:9, 10), for if our Lord did not go away the Comforter would not come.
8. Had our Lord remained upon the earth, He would necessarily have been restricted by space and time as are all men. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of born-again believers provides a fellowship with God that is in many ways even closer than the apostles had experienced in the physical presence of Jesus.
9. With Spirit-filled soulwinners spread out all over the world, more souls can be won than when our Lord walked this earth 2,000 years ago.
10. This is what Jesus meant when He said in John 14:12, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."
11. Jesus never preached outside of Palestine, yet His followers have preached the gospel all over the world. There are only a few references to Jesus preaching to Gentiles, but in the book of Acts we see how His disciples successfully reached the Gentile world with the gospel.
12. "Greater works than these shall he do." That is quite a promise! And it only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can win souls and do these "greater works."

## **II. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1:5)**

1. In Luke 24:49, our Lord said to His disciples, "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."
2. "Endued" (Luke 24:49) means to be clothed, possessed, enveloped.

3. Baptism of the Spirit is an immersion in the Spirit. Enduement is an investment of the Spirit.
4. Baptism is initial and final. Enduement is initial and continual.
5. Ephesians 5:18 says, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." The present tense means we are to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
6. The victorious Christian life is not up and down, in and out, hot and cold, fervent and backslidden, etc. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
7. The word translated *filled* in the original Greek text signifies continuous action. The idea is to "keep being filled," so that while baptism is initial and final; enduement is initial and continual.
8. Baptism has to do with relationship. First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..."
9. Baptism has to do with relationship, while enduement has to do with power for soulwinning (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:46-49).
10. In Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."
11. John the Baptist said the same thing in Mark 1:8, and in Luke 3:16, and in John 1:33.
12. There is much confusion over the meaning of being baptized with the Holy Ghost. Much of the confusion has come from the tongues crowd (Pentecostals, charismatics, etc.).
13. John the Baptist's prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
14. A man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and yet still not be filled with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration, there is an impartation of life, and the one who receives it is saved.
15. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, there is an impartation of power and the one who receives it is fitted for service.
16. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but this is not the same thing as the baptism of the Holy Spirit because we are not commanded to be baptized with the Spirit.
17. All believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit. We are united in Christ. We are all part of the body of Christ. This took place at our conversion.
18. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but we are not commanded to be sealed with the Spirit.
19. Ephesians 1:13 says, "after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."

20. This takes place the moment a person receives Jesus Christ as his Saviour. It is automatic, but the filling is not automatic.
21. When we got saved we were regenerated by the Holy Spirit, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and baptized by the Holy Spirit.
22. We may need to be filled with the Holy Spirit many times, but the Bible nowhere teaches that the baptism by the Holy Spirit is to be repeated.

### **III. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1:8)**

1. The context indicates that this marvelous, supernatural power is needed to evangelize the world (cf. Luke 24:46-49).
2. D. L. Moody said, "We must have this power from on high. Without this power, our work will be drudgery. With it, it becomes a joyful task, a refreshing service."
3. This power is absolutely necessary. It is essential. It is of vital importance.
4. In Matthew 28:18, 19, our Lord said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
5. And then He said in Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..."
6. Stephen Olford said, "What a change would come into our personal evangelism if we knew how to direct divine power...and destroy satanic power! What a new sense of our high calling we should have in fulfilling the commission to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15)!"
7. The Great Commission (Acts 1:8) involves three things:
  1. Personnel – the local church. We are God's "witnesses" (1:8).
  2. Plan – worldwide evangelism started in Jerusalem (1:8). The application today for us would be to start here in Elmont. The disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit, followed our Lord's plan. They evangelized Jerusalem (Acts 1--7), Judea and Samaria (Acts 8--12), and the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 13--28). Acts 1:8 is the outline for the book of Acts.
  3. Power – the power behind the Great Commission is the person of the Holy Spirit. We need God's power to do God's work God's way. A.J. Gordon said that before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things, but after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things.
8. Before our Lord ascended into heaven, His disciples were asking about the restoration of the kingdom of Israel (Acts 1:6), but our Lord told them His

program for this dispensation was not the restoration Israel, but getting the Gospel out "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:7, 8).

9. To accomplish this, there must be supernatural power (1:8), i.e., an enduement of power from on high (Luke 24:49).

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. A pastor was walking to church on a winter evening. He was thinking of the sermon that he was planning to preach that night.
2. His text was John 16:13, 14 – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”
3. As the pastor turned the corner down the street from the church building, he saw that the building was lit up by the floodlights.
4. He quickly realized that this was exactly the illustration that his message needed. When floodlighting is well done, the floodlights are placed so that you do not see them.
5. In fact, you are not supposed to see where the light is coming from; what you are meant to see is just the building on which the floodlights are trained.
6. The intended effect is to make the object visible when otherwise it would not be seen for the darkness.
7. This perfectly illustrated the Holy Spirit’s ministry. The preacher said, “He is, so to speak, the hidden floodlight shining on the Savior” (*Your Father Loves You*, J. I. Packer).
8. Jesus said to Nicodemus, “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).
9. You do not see the Holy Spirit, but you can see Him work.
10. Zechariah 4:6 says, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.