Encountering the Power of the Holy Spirit

Here's a very powerful statement about Jesus:

Romans 1:4 - *… declared to be <u>the Son of God with power</u> according to the <u>Spirit</u> of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

(TPT): *but as the mighty Son of God he was raised from the dead and miraculously set apart with a display of triumphant power <u>supplied by the Spirit of Holiness</u>. And now Jesus is our Lord and our Messiah.*

Jesus didn't come in weakness, He came as a strong, powerful Jesus.

He was '*declared to be the Son of God with power'*. The disciples of Jesus saw what that looked like for three years. I am sure that they walked in great boldness, authority and power just by reason of their association with Him.

However, one day Jesus sat with them in the upper room of a house during Passover and announced that he was going to the Father. I am sure that they were left perplexed and fearful.

The disciples never did well on their own:

- In **Mark 6** they were alone in a boat when a storm came and had Jesus not come to them walking on the waters, they would have probably perished.
- In **Mark 9** Jesus is again not with them again, and this time, a man brought his son who was demon-possessed, and they could not cast it out. Eventually Jesus comes to them and sets him free.

Here's what Jesus said in **verse 19:**

He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, <u>how long shall I be with you</u>? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."

How long shall I be with you? – Jesus is indicating clearly that there was going to come a time when they needed to be moving in the same power.

The disciples never seemed to have done well on their own. What was going to happen? Were they going to be left alone? Were they going to become orphaned? What was going to happen in the absence of such a powerful Jesus?

Not only Jesus had been such a great miracle worker but also such a teacher, such a helper and a comforter. To be without Him was almost like being orphaned.

That's probably how they would have felt, hadn't Jesus said the following:

John 14:16-18 - ***16*** *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

Verse 26: [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 things that I said to you.*

John 16:7 - [7] *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

In His last instructions to the disciples, Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they were endued with power from on High.

It is interesting to see that the disciples didn't weep when Jesus left them, didn't display any nostalgic longings. No. They had joy instead, because they knew that the Holy Spirit was coming.

Luke 24:51-53 - *Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.* [52] *And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,* [53] *and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.*

They were excited that the Holy Spirit was coming. We need to get excited about the Holy Spirit!

Let us now go to the book of Acts and see what happened:

Acts 1:1; 4-5, 8.

Acts 2:1-18

There are 3 thoughts I want to leave with you today:

1. **The Holy Spirit was there at the conception of the church**

a) Just like He was there at the conception of Jesus. There was no Church before the Holy Spirit came, and the Holy Spirit will be with the Church until Jesus comes again.

Revelation 22:17 – "*The Spirit and the Bride say, come*" …

b) The root of the church is the power of the Holy Spirit. If you take the root out, you end up with a dead church.

There are 50 specific works of the Holy Spirit between Matthew and Acts. However, in the book of Acts alone, which marks the start of the church, there are 57 references to the Holy Spirit.

In the book of Acts, we see how the lives of the disciples were intertwined with the Holy Spirit.

2. **The initial evidence of the coming of the Holy Spirit was tongues of fire, touching the tongues of men.**

In **Isaiah 6:6-7** we read how God touched Isaiah's mouth with a live coal. Here, fire fell on the tongues of men.

Donald Gee wrote**:** *"The Holy Spirit is not the subject of theological dogma but a burning experience".*

John the Baptist prophesied about this day*:* **Matthew 3: 11b** - *… He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

a) They spoke with new tongues they had never learned. They spoke in tongues in a public setting, about the wonderful works of God.

   Wonderful works: Gr. Megaleos – "the conspicuous, magnificent, majestic, grand, beautiful, excellent works of God"

b) There was a flame for every name and a tongue for every nation represented there. The great works of God were declared in a worldwide crusade with simultaneous translation in every language!

c) Every believer and every church needs to be on fire, as a burning bush, from where the word of the Lord sounds forth – to we declare the wonderful works of God.

3. The first message of the Church started with the Holy Spirit

a) Jesus started His ministry declaring that He was the Anointed One **Isaiah 61** talked about – the Church started their ministry declaring that they were the anointed ones, **Joel 2** talked about. Both Jesus and the early church spoke about the Holy Spirit.

b) The early church was concerned that everyone should receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

   Acts 8:14-17 says that the Apostles went to Samaria so that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

   Acts 19:1-6 – When Paul arrived in Ephesus there was a group of 12 believers that didn't even know that there was a Holy Spirit. Paul laid hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

   The experience of people being filled with the Holy Spirit was not only in **Acts 2,** but also **Acts 4**, **Acts 10** and **Acts 19**,

   Acts 10:44-48: - *"**44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. **45** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. **46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, **47** "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" **48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days."*

People spoke in tongues not only in **Jerusalem,** but they continued to be baptised in the Holy Spirit in **Samaria**, **Ephesus**, **Caesarea** and we also know that the **Corinthians** spoke in tongues.

c) Pentecost was not an isolated historical event. Pentecost was the beginning of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Every generation has had to have their own outpouring. Every Christian has to drink of the same Fountain of living waters.

God didn't create the church to be a museum of things that used to be and are no more. No. He never intended us to be like 'stuffed exhibits' without life. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is alive and so are we. His power is alive, His Holy Spirit is still being poured out!

Peter never said that the promise was only valid for a certain dispensation or that it had come with an expiry date. No. He said:

Acts 2:39 - ***"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call"***

Thank God for the Holy Spirit. He is still being poured out today. We are not orphans, we are not alone, and we are not without power! He lives in us.