

SOM WEEK 4 OVERVIEW

Homework

- Bible Readings: Acts 1-8
- Book Readings: *Living Water* by Chuck Smith (Chapter 7-13, Pg 95-172)

Sermon Notes

Teaching: The Holy Spirit and His power in our lives

Text: Acts 1:4-5,8 "Wait for the promise of the Father which you have heard of me. John truly baptized with water, you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you. You shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and all of Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Introduction

- Let me also preface this by saying I have spent much of this week in prayer and thought on this subject. I have read through numerous books and commentaries as I have sought to learn as much as I can to convey this to you. I even spent time talking to Pastor Bobby about this; because this is an important topic and I want to get it right.
 - That being said, I am learning these things right alongside with you, and there is a good chance that some of you will not agree with me on some of this. And that is totally okay.
 - Here is what I would encourage you to do. Don't believe a word that I say. Acts 17:11 "And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth." You have a bible, search these things out for yourself, know your doctrine, what you believe, why you believe it and if the Scripture corroborates it.
 - I will put every reference that I use today in the weekly overview so that you can look these things up for yourself.
- So let's start with the basics. The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third person of the divine trinity, not less than or inferior to the Father or Jesus, but the same. He is God. If you have been reading along with us in the book *Living Water*, Chuck Smith does an excellent job of going through and explaining that. If you are going to ask me to explain the trinity, uh I am the wrong person.
 - I love where David says in the Psalm 139:6 "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.*"
- Chuck goes through the reality of the Holy Spirit being a person, not just a power or an impersonal force.

- The Holy Spirit has personality, we can grieve the Holy Spirit, we can vex the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit also loves.. All things a force or power cannot do. (Something I ponder or ruminate on, is that God makes Himself vulnerable to be grieved by us.. Thats how much He loves us)
- We see Him at the beginning in creation in Genesis 1:2 "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters"
- But I love going to where Jesus talked about Him in the gospel of John 14:15-18,26
 - "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. 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. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you... 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 16:7-15 "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. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you"
- There is a lot of stuff here in between these two passages, but let's quickly unpack some of it. Jesus said the Father will give you another Helper. That word another in the Greek can be allos or heteros. Allos means of the same kind or of equal quality. Heteros means of a different quality. Pg 15-16
 - Jesus is saying that another Helper is coming, of the same kind of quality. Essentially saying "Just as I was with you and took care of every situation, so now the Holy Spirit will be with you and will take care of every situation for you."
- Again moving quickly, we see that the Holy Spirit has a role. To teach us all things, to bring to remembrance the things that Jesus said. That He will guide us in all truth.
 - We see that He will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
 - So He is our teacher, our comforter, our helper, and note this John 14:17 "For He dwells with you and will be in you"

There are Three prepositions(a word that shows direction) we see with the Holy Spirit

- He will dwell with you,
- He will be in you,
- He will come upon you.

- Alongside, inside, upon. In Greek it is para, en, epi.

Para

- To come alongside, to be with. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit dwells with you and calls Him the Comforter. That word is parakletos, and it means called to ones side, pleads ones cause
 - The Holy Spirit is the one that draws us, and woos us to Christ. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens our eyes to our own depravity, and draws us to the truth of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the one that testifies of the truth of Christ. He comes alongside us.
 - Think about your own experience when you were saved and born again. Whether you responded to an altar call or it you called out to Jesus in the quiet of your own room. What affirmed that this was true? Who convicted you of sin? Who led you in the truth? Who testified of Jesus? The bible says that was all the work of the Holy Spirit.

In

- Then at salvation, we repent of our sin, confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that Jesus died for sins and rose on the third day, that He loves us and freely offers salvation. We are “born again”, not of flesh, but of spirit. God the Holy Spirit now comes and indwells us. Jesus said “He will be in you”.
 - Paul later writes in 1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 “In Him, you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”
 - That word in KJV is earnest, in the greek it is arrobon. Where we get our word for engagement ring,
 - Romans 8:14-16 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out Abba Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”
 - Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
 - And as you look through the book of acts, take note as you read how the Spirit speaks to believers(it seemed good to the Spirit.. The Spirit expressly said), the Spirit led and guided the ministry(the Spirit forbade, the Spirit said set apart Paul and barnabas) and on and on
 - There is much, too much to cover about the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer from sanctification, intercession, leading, teaching, guiding etc.

Epi

- All of these are incredible truths, but where most people short circuit is when we get to the epi. The upon. And that's where we are going to spend the lion's share of our time this morning.
- Turn back to Acts 1:4-5,8 "Wait for the promise of the Father which you have heard of me. John truly baptized with water, you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you. You shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and all of Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."
 - The context is that Jesus has been crucified, died, and risen again on the third day. He has appeared to His disciples and has spent time with them teaching them. Acts 1:3 "To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."
 - So for 40 days after His resurrection He is spending time with the disciples, speaking of the kingdom. Teaching them, instructing them, opening their understanding. If I could go back in time man this is one of the places I would want to go, just hanging out with the resurrected Jesus.
- But it is interesting that Jesus tells them to wait. They have spent three and a half years with Jesus, been taught by Jesus, seen and done miracles, and yet now Jesus tells them to wait for "the promise of the Father, that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost, and they would receive power when the Holy Ghost came upon them (note this). You shall be witnesses unto me."
 - That's our word there, the third preposition: upon (epi).
 - And the context for this "power" for this "Baptism" for the "Holy Spirit coming upon" is that they might be witnesses. You guys are starting Acts 1-8 this week. Take note of the amount of times it says witnesses.
 - Acts 2:32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses"
 - Acts 3:15 "And killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses"
 - Acts 4:33 "And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all."
- The context of this baptism of the Holy Spirit was not power for the sake of power, was not smacking people around with sports jackets, was not so they could laugh like hyenas and call it "holy laughter", it was not to speak in tongues (did they? Yes sometimes, but that was not the context), it was not to swing from chandeliers or roll around on the floor.
 - The context is so that they would have power to be witnesses. Witnesses of what? The life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

The empowering (you shall receive power) and the anointing of the Spirit coming upon our lives, is consistent with the great commission, power to be my witnesses to Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria to the uttermost parts of the earth

- This power is described as being “baptized with the Holy Spirit”(Acts 1:5), its also described when the Spirit comes upon you (acts 1:8)
- At Pentecost, (acts 2:4) it says they were all “filled with the Holy Spirit” and Peter pulls from Joel 2 where God says “I will pour out my spirit on all flesh”
- (Acts 8:16-17) it says as “the Holy Spirit fell or fallen”, describing the same experience
- (Acts 19) its says “the Holy Spirit came upon them”, describing the same experience

The idea is, it isn't as easy to nail down as we would like in regards to our English description. And this is where the church has a hard time and divides and argues over the description of the power of the Holy Spirit which was supposed to be a unifying factor in the church.

It is interesting that the church is in agreement about the Father, and about the Son, but where short circuit is when it comes to the Person of the Holy Spirit and His power in our lives.

- Don't we get all of it at Salvation? Doesn't speaking in Tongues accompany it? Does it happen once or again and again? What about the verse where it says one baptism? I thought the phrase baptism of the Holy Spirit doesn't appear in the bible.. Lets look at these.

- We know from Jesus in John 14 and 16 that there is the work of the Holy Spirit, where the Spirit comes alongside, the parakletos, we looked at that. .
 - There is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in dwelling with the believer. But when you get saved, the moment you're saved, you are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”
 - Ephesians 4:4-6 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.”
 - Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” tells us the same thing. So we all agree: the moment you're saved, you are indwelt by the Spirit, Christ comes to live within you, within your being, and when that happens you are placed into the body of Christ.

We don't have any argument over that. That is a one-time experience that is never repeated.

When you get saved, at salvation you are not praying, saying, “Oh God, place me into the mystical body of Christ.” That's not what you're praying.

- You say: Lord Jesus, save me. I'm a sinner. I'm so tired. I'm so broken. I'm tired of the emptiness. Lord, I want a relationship with you. I don't want some phony religious experience. I want this to be real. I can't go on on my own. I'm tired of my sin. Wash me, cleanse me, forgive me.
 - And you're born again. And at that instant, by means of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit puts you into the body of Christ. That experience is never repeated.

I can't agree with those who say that there is no subsequent work of the Spirit in our lives.

- Is being baptized into the body of Christ the same thing that we read about in Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, and all those places, John the Baptist saying the one who comes after me—I'm not worthy to unloose the latchet of his sandal. He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

- That is not the Holy Spirit baptizing us into the body of Christ. That is Jesus Christ baptizing with the Spirit.
 - Is it the same thing? I put it out to you. I don't believe being baptized into the body of Christ and being baptized with power are the same thing because in the Old Testament, Samson, the Spirit of God came upon him and empowered him.
 - The prophets, the Spirit of God came upon them. Those who were craftsmen who worked on the tabernacle? It says the Spirit of God came upon them and enabled them.
 - None of them looked to heaven and called God Father. None of them were part of the body of Christ. They weren't saved and indwelt the way we are.
 - But there is the Spirit of God, as he did in the Old Testament, coming upon the believer to enable him to be a witness for the cause of Christ, to communicate the death, resurrection, and forgiveness of sins that are in Christ Jesus, and those things are repeated.

(I like the way one pastor puts this) Do I believe in second blessing theology? No. Certainly not in the sense that it's promoted, and they say, "Well, if you don't speak in tongues, you don't have the Holy Spirit." I don't find that in the Bible. That's not true.

- Paul simply says in a second grader could understand it: (1 corinthians 12:30) do all speak in tongues? Paul prefaces that by asking "Are all apostles?"
 - The answer is no. If we all speak in tongues, then we're all Apostles, too.
 - I don't believe in second blessing theology in that sense. But I believe in the first blessing theology, second blessing theology, third blessing theology, fourth blessing theology, fifth blessing theology—and sixth, but you know, you go on from there.

Many fillings

- (Acts 2:4) Peter, on the day of Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit—was he already saved?
 - John chapter 20:22 "And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit" Jesus, after the resurrection, has the disciples gathered together, and it says He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John, in the beginning of his gospel, said: "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God. He created everything. When God the Creator breathes on you and says, 'Receive the Holy Spirit,' guess what happens?"

- People say, "All that was just symbolic." You have to stretch things to reinforce your predisposition. I think when Jesus breathes on us and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit," as Creator, as God, it happens.

In Acts chapter 2, Peter full of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost gives the sermon and 3,000 souls were added to the church

- Now in chapter 4:8, Peter stands up to preach. When he stands up, Peter, standing up, filled with the Spirit—literally being filled with the Spirit. That's a fresh filling happening right then.
 - "Well, I thought he was filled on Pentecost?" He was, but that's a refill. He's filled again.
- Acts 4:29-31 They're all praying together, "Lord, give us boldness to share the gospel of Christ," and it says as they're praying, the building is shaken, and it says they were all filled—the Greek grammar says they were filled anew. They were filled afresh right then.
 - "Well, I thought Peter was just filled before that?" He was, he's filled again.

Acts Chapter 9:

Paul, saved, receives his sight, is filled with the Holy Spirit(Acts 9:17). But then when we get to chapter 13:9, in the book of Acts, it says Saul, who also was called Paul, filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on this man.

- Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, right at that instant. He is filled again. Paul said "Be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Be ye being filled)Ephesians 5:18
- I like what D. L Moody says "A great many think because they have been filled once, they are going to be full for all time after. But, oh, my friends, we are leaky vessels, and have to be kept right under the fountain all the time, in order to keep full."

So it isn't just once that it happens. Does it happen when at salvation? Does it happen after we're saved? Yes.

Can it be at the same time as salvation? Can it be after salvation? Yes.

- Jesus said, "How much more will the Father, Luke 11:13, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?"
 - Which one of you, if his kid asked for a loaf of bread, are you gonna give him a stone? If he asked for a fish, are you gonna give him a serpent? If he asked for an egg, are you gonna give him a scorpion?
 - If you, then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?
 - We see these men filled. We see them filled again, subsequent to their first filling, subsequent or after their conversion.

Heres another example

Acts 8:4-17.. I'll paraphrase for time. Philip goes to Samaria and preaches Christ, and the multitudes with one accord heeded(listened to philip) and saw the miracles that were done. V12 says they believed Philip concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. Philip is baptizing them because they are believers. It says that in English and the greek lol

- The apostles send Peter and John to Samaria, and when they laid hands on them they received the Holy Spirit.
 - They were already believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit. "But yet He had not fallen upon any of them".. "Well this is a special dispensation because it is coming through the apostles Peter and John".. Okay lets look at the next one

Acts 9

- Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. The Lord appears to him. He hears a voice. He falls off the horse. There's a bright light.
 - He hears, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Verse 4 He said, "Who art thou, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest. It's hard for you to kick against the goads." And he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do now?"
- Let me ask you a question:
 - This is Saul of Tarsus—Paul is he a believer here?
- Let's recount what's happened on the road to Damascus: To kill Christians, to haul them off to prison because he hates Christianity, hates the name of Jesus. On the way, a brilliant light appears in the sky, brighter than the noonday sun. He falls to the ground. He hears a voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It's hard to kick against the goads, isn't it?"
 - "Who are you?" "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest." Next thing, he says, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Saul is calling Jesus Lord.
 - 1 Corinthians 12 says, "No man can call Jesus Lord but by the Spirit of God."
- Is Saul a believer? Let me tell you something: when Jesus appears to you, brother, in noonday sun, He knocks you down off your horse, He says to you, "It's hard to do this, isn't it?" and you say, "Who are you?" and He says, "I'm Jesus," you are then a believer.
- Saul then sits in Damascus for three days, stewing in his Old Testament theology, No doubt, forming some of the great theology of the New Testament, God ministering to his heart. Blind, though.
- There was a certain man, verse 10, a disciple at Damascus, named Ananias.
 - The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He said, "Behold, here I am, Lord."
 - And the Lord said unto him: "Arise, go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus. Behold, he is praying and has seen a vision, a man, and has seen in any vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hands on him that he might receive his sight."
- Then Ananias answered, said, "Hey Lord, are you sure? I've heard lots of bad things about this guy. He's done many evil things to the saints in Jerusalem, and even here he's got authority from the priest to bind those who call upon your name."
 - The Lord said, "I know that. Go thy way. He is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel, for I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."
- Ananias went his way, entered into the house, putting his hands on him, said, "Brother, now he's a believer. Brother Saul (He was already a believer. He was already indwelt.), the Lord, even Jesus that hath appeared unto thee in the way as you came, has sent me that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost, (This was after his conversion)
- In chapter 13: 9. He was filled again with another fresh filling that was subsequent to this experience.

- Annanias wasn't an apostle, He was just another believer. And the Holy Spirit was imparted to Saul through the laying on of hands.
- Okay is it only through the laying on of hands? Does it happen only after salvation?

Acts Chapters 10 and 11:

- Peter, at the house of Cornelius, the Gentiles are listening. As they listen and they believe (While Peter is still preaching!), they are both saved and filled simultaneously, and there's a manifestation of the Spirit.
- This is at salvation and without the laying on of hands
- Peter recounts that in chapter 11:16-17 and says, "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

Acts 19:1-6

- Paul, coming in through the upper coast to Ephesus, found certain disciples. He said unto them, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"
 - Verse 2 is right where the church divides and argues: "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" Some of your translations might say, "Have you received the Holy Ghost when you believed?"
 - Now, in the Greek, you could translate it either way. You can translate it "since," or you can translate it "when."
- Here's the argument:
 - if it says, "Did you receive the Holy Ghost since you believed?" then what Paul is saying is they were believers, but have they received the Spirit since they believed?
 - If it says, "Did you receive the Spirit when you believed?" then Paul is saying these guys are not really believers yet because they didn't receive the Spirit.
- Their answer to him is, "We didn't even hear if there was such a thing as the Holy Spirit."
 - Paul's thinking that's unusual because we're sent to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. How could they not have heard?
- And he said to them, "Well, under what baptism were you baptized?" They said, "Under John's baptism." Then Paul said, "Verily, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people they should believe on him who should come after him, that is, on Jesus Christ."
 - When they heard this, verse 5, take note—they were baptized in the name of Jesus. Now, I'm assuming in verse 5, they're all believers; Paul wouldn't baptize them if they weren't believers.
- So the argument in verse 2 is a mute argument. It doesn't matter if it's "since" or if it's "when." Because we find them saved in verse 5 and being baptized in verse 5. But subsequent to that, when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them.

- Was that five minutes later? Was it fifteen minutes later? Was it an hour later? Was it the afternoon of the same day where they were baptized in water in the morning? I don't know.
- But it is subsequent to them believing, because they believe. They're baptized in water, and after that, Paul lays his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit then comes upon them.

Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever"

- We believe that God is still working in the world today, that His Spirit is still stirring, still moving, still indwelling, still empowering us to accomplish His will for today.
 - And If you will indulge me for a few minutes I would like to read a few testimonials of this.

Conclusion

- We're not arguing about some of the strange shenanigans we see that go on in the church. What we're saying is: There is an empowering by God that is available to the believer, and it is relative to the Great Commission.
 - If we're going to reach this city and we're going to reach this nation for Christ, we need to be a church that seeks God daily for the filling of His Holy Spirit. And I assume that's why we are here on a Saturday morning. To be equipped by God to fulfill the work that He has called you to do.
- Here is the truth. Jesus said John 15:5 "Apart from me you can do nothing"
 - Zachariah 4:6 "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord of Hosts"
 - Ephesians 5:18 Don't be drunk with wine—we're in excess, Paul says in Ephesians—but be ye being filled with the Holy Spirit. Those are the tenses. It is continuous.
 - Luke 11:13: "How much more will the Father give the Spirit to those who ask Him for the Spirit?"
- The harvest is white unto harvest, now the laborers are few. It will not be accomplished by natural means, by intellect, by gifts, by talents, by diplomas. It will be a moving of God's Holy Spirit.
- What we want and what we need is what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 "when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the [a]testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of [b]human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5= that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."
 - It may happen while you're not asking. We see from the text.
 - It may happen while we're getting ready to testify. Peter stood up to preach and was filled with the Spirit.
 - It may happen while we're praying—they were in Acts 4:31. They were all together praying, and as they were praying, they were filled afresh with the Spirit.

- It may happen as we're listening to the scripture taught. In the house of Cornelius, they were listening to the scripture, and they were saved and they were filled with the Spirit.
 - It may happen when a pastor or an elder is praying for you.
 - It may happen when a disciple, the person next to you, is praying for you.

So as we close in prayer, if the Lord is stirring you, and creating this desire and longing for more of Him, more love, more power, more of yourself surrendered to Him. I would encourage you to get before God and pray, and ask.

- How much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?