

# *“Understanding Holy Spirit Empowering”*

## A Topical Study

### ~ INTRO ~

I DIDN'T REALIZE...

- Why teaching the book of (Acts) is difficult...
  - Until yesterday afternoon in prayer.
- The Lord showed me it's because people resist His Spirit.

READ...

- a) (John 3:32-34) NLT
- b) (John 7:37-39) NLT

### ~ STUDY ~

TODAY... WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS...

- On an overview of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church...
  - And at the end of the message...
    - I'll provide a real time application for this Church.

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### IDEA #1 – KNOW THE DIFFERENCE:

THE NEW TESTAMENT...

- Reveals three ways the Holy Spirit is working.
  - Each one is described with a different Greek prepositional phrase.

**FIRST WORK...**

Para = (John 16:7-9) NLT

“... *the Advocate*...” = Grk. #3875 *paraklētos*

The Holy Spirit comes ALONGSIDE a person to convict them of sin.

- (John 16:8) NLT

**\*AT TIMES A PERSON...**

- Will come into a church and be convicted thru the message...
  - But they're NOT submitted to the Lord in surrender & repentance!
    - They're NOT saved / they're NOT born again!

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DON'T MISS IT...

- The Holy Spirit is at work in that person's life...
  - But they're still resisting the Spirit!

**SECOND WORK...**

En = Simple understanding... is INSIDE... think born again / sealed with.

- In (John 20:22) NLT after the resurrection...
  - Jesus breathed on the disciples...
    - And said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

**THIRD WORK...**

- Is referenced by the prepositional phrase Epi
  - This means to be *“upon”* ...
    - Speaks of Holy Spirit POWER UPON a person.

IN (John 7:39) NLT...

- Jesus foretells the birth of the church...
  - And the POWER of the Holy Spirit being upon a person.
- After Jesus ascends into heaven... the Holy Spirit takes over on earth...
  - By working in & thru individual believers within the Church.
    - This is HOW God's work continues today.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS IN (Acts 1:8) NLT...

- *You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon (epi) YOU.*

THE FULFILLMENT OF THIS IS IN (Acts 2:4) NLT...

- *“... everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit...”*

THIS EVENT FULFILLED THE PROPHECY OF (John 7:38)...

- When Jesus looked ahead to the unlimited supply of the Spirit!
  - An unlimited amount of strength – *rivers of living water* –
    - Will flow FROM the believer... FOR the work of ministry.

THIS IS WHAT JESUS MODELED...

- FOR us and offers TO us... (John 3:34-b) NLT

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*“... For God Gives Him the Spirit without limit.”*

**LET ME STRING THEM TOGETHER AND PUT THEM IN ACTION:**

- **First** the Holy Spirit comes **alongside**...
  - Leading a person to the knowledge of Christ & conviction of sin.
- **Second** the Spirit comes **into**...
  - A person AND seals them forever.
    - Marking them for the Lord – their born again!
- **Third work** is the Spirit **empowering** the Christian.
  - It's the flowing FORTH or OUT OF a believer's life.
    - (They've received power for the work of ministry).

**IDEA #2 – HERE'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:**

WE READ IN ...

- (Luke 24:49) NLT that Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem...
  - Until they had received the empowerment of the Spirit...
    - Before they began the work of ministry.

IN THE **EARLY CHURCH**... (I believe it's in the church today too)

- There's an ignorance ...
  - Regarding the work of the Holy Spirit – (1 Cor. 12:1) NKJV.

(Acts 8:14-17) NLT = They had NOT received the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 19:1-6) NLT = They did NOT receive the Holy Spirit when they believed.

THE BIBLE FOCUES...

- On three primary events at the birth of the Church...

(Acts 2:38) NLT

*“Repentance, forgiveness of sins AND the gift of the Holy Spirit”*

- a) Repentance – change of life direction
- b) New life – then I am baptized into Christ
- c) Power – comes from the baptism of the Holy Spirit

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NOW... BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT...

- Is seen a few different ways in (Acts):
  - 1) When Paul laid hands on believers (Acts 19:6)
  - 2) While Peter was speaking (Acts 10:44)
  - 3) When Peter prayed for the Holy Spirit for others (Acts 8:15)

### **IDEA #3 – TODAY'S APPLICATION:**

JESUS... DIDN'T PERMIT THE EARLY CHURCH...

- To serve until they had been empowered...
  - By the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49) NLT.

BUT... ONCE THEY WERE EMPOWERED...

- They were to get to work (Acts 1:8) NLT.

HERE'S MY CONCERN...

- People resist the Spirit:
  - 1) (John 3:32) NLT – unbelief.
  - 2) (John 7:43) NLT – division.
  - 3) (2 Cor. 9:7) NLT – withholding support = resisting the Spirit.

### **Top Ten WC Outreaches for 2022:**

- I. Food for the Hungry daily meals – across Africa
- II. Providing for orphans & poor kids – Rwanda
- III. Printing Bibles (by the thousands 25k YTD) – across Asia
- IV. Missions support in Brazil – women escaping trafficking & prostitution
- V. Missions support in Ireland – teen kids
- VI. Underground Pastor – Iran
- VII. Video Broadcast globally – 180,000+ people reached per year
- VIII. Radio broadcast over 5,000,000 Monday thru Friday

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#### IX. Marshal Fire emergency response

- 25,000 lbs. of goods
  - Valued @ \$300,000

#### X. AS OF LAST WEEK...

- The board is negotiating a children’s ministry & youth expansion project.
  - This will add \$2,500 of monthly costs.
  - Target reach aimed at 20 - 36-year-olds in this community
    - (Those in the child rearing ages)

### **HEAR MY HEART CHURCH...**

#### MAYBE YOU’RE ONE OF THOSE WHO SAYS...

- I don’t need the baptism of the Spirit!

#### OK... BUT... CAN I BE HONEST WITH YOU!?!

- As your pastor...I would say... yes you do!!!

#### AND HERE’S THE REAL TIME EVIDENCE...

- On August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, I was given a summary report...
  - From the financial team.

#### IT REVEALED 2022 DATA...

- 68% of this church DOES NOT give financially.
  - **That’s a massive spiritual problem folks!!!**

#### TURN TO (2 Cor. 9:11-15) NLT

- There are people out there waiting for your generosity!
  - Please receive the empowering of God’s Spirit...
    - So we can advance the Gospel together!

### **~ PRAYER ~**