

21-DAY FAST AND PRAY JANUARY 10, 2019

“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:4-8 NKJV

“It was never man who was to continue the work Christ started – it was always [the] ‘Holy Spirit.’”

The Holy Spirit wasn't some new creation but was already at work in the earth, clearly evident in the Old Testament, and was to now do something additional. He was to work in the name of Jesus, to reveal that He is alive. And this was to be done in and through the believers, the Church. Jesus insisted that they go nowhere, do nothing until the Spirit came. And He would teach and lead, guide and direct, work with and through them.

This was not simply an indwelling, but an empowering. The work to come required a fullness of the Spirit. Throughout Acts, we see the Spirit, working with the Church, speaking to them, directing them, confirming them.

Peter said, *“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.” - Acts 11:15 NKJV*

John said, *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,” - Revelation 1:10 NKJV*

They both are declaring, “It wasn't me. I didn't do it.” The ‘Spirit’ was at work. Neither the work nor words were those of men. They spoke by the Spirit.

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You will never be effective by your own effort alone. You must be full of the Spirit. Are you?

The disciples were filled.

The early church was filled.

And, we also must be filled, and filled again!

Being full of the Holy Spirit is not a matter of salvation, but of anointing! We are called to a task we cannot do alone. It is impossible – even to live the Christian life, without the power of the Holy Spirit.

It's Time to Pray

1. **Ask God to fill** you to overflowing with the Holy Spirit! No, move beyond 'asking' to 'seeking.' Make spirit-fullness a preoccupation. Go after God with all your heart. Let go of things that hinder your holy pursuit.
2. **Ask God to give you an increased awareness** of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Think about the Holy Spirit in His role as 'the ghost' of Jesus, coming to live and walk with you to provide proof that Jesus is not dead, but alive. Practice the presence the Spirit. Be conscious that you are traveling with a 'ghost.' Jesus is not dead, He is alive, and He is in you, with you everywhere and at all times.
3. **Pray again today for someone you hope will trust Christ.** Add their name to your prayer list.
4. **Pray for your pastors and for all Christian leaders** to fall in love with Jesus all over again! That their words would be saturated with an anointing that only comes from a genuine move of the Holy Spirit.