

“Living By The Spirit’s Power”

Acts 2:37-39

November 12, 2017

VIDEO: *“Never Been A Moment”*

INTRO: **Amen!** That song is BOTH a message **to** the Church
and
A message to be shared **thru** the Church!

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God
is the most important thing about us.” - A.W. Tozer*

Did you hear the: Inform, Inspect, & Inspire?

- Hosea 4:6 & Proverbs 29:18
- Genesis 1:28 & 3:15
- Ezekiel 11:19 & 36:26 (promised new spirits)

BIG IDEA: The Holy Spirit in Christians empowers
us, as the Church, to speak & live out
God’s message & mission to the world!

TEXT: Acts 2:37-39

37 *Now when they* (the crowd) *heard this* (Peter preaching the good news of Jesus Christ) *they were cut to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,* “*Brothers, what shall we do* (to be saved from our sins & our selves)?” **38** *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*

PREVIEW:

- Unifies us VERTICALLY *Worship*
- Unifies us HORIZONTALLY *Walk*
- Unifies us MISSIONALLY *Work*

T/S: *For Christians, the Holy Spirit provides the power for our spiritual lives... and He cares a great deal about how that power is exercised... - DisciplesPath*

I. Unifies Us Vertically - Worship

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Romans 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2**For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

Acts 19:2 *“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”*

Ephesians 2:1-6 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2**in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—**3**among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4**But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...*

VIDEO: *“I Want To Be Different”*

1 John 2:3-5 = *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.*

T/S: *“Our WORSHIP defines our fellowship.”* - JDP

Koinonia = *"the fellowship of the Holy Spirit"* ([2 Cor. 13:14](#))

II. Unifies Us Horizontally - Walk

1 Corinthians 12:13: *"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*

QUOTE: The first sign of a Spirit-filled church is one in which the Spirit-filled people do not flee from Scripture and seek a substitute for it, but rather, are driven to it, to have their spiritual lives rooted and grounded in the Word of God. – **Sproul**

Romans 8:5-6, 9, 11 *Life in the Spirit*

5For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

9You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

11If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

“Someone once said that 95 percent of what happens in many evangelical churches could be done without the Holy Spirit.

Many people will come to churches, attracted by the comprehensive programs the church offers... People want a weekly religious dose, and, in our entertainment-oriented culture, a church that provides an entertaining “program” will attract people, just like a good concert or sporting event will attract people... But Christian ministry is ministry in the Spirit.

Without the Spirit's power, our programs are ultimately futile.” - NIV Commentator

To each is given the manifestation/gift of the Spirit for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:7

Ephesians 4:1-6 *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2**with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3**eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4**There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5**one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6**one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Acts 2:42-47 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43](#)And awe^d came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44](#)And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45](#)And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46](#)And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Philippians 2:1-4 *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2](#)complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3](#)Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4](#)Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*

God's Word & Jesus himself repeatedly emphasized that faithful obedience characterizes all TRUE Christians:

Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,'" Jesus demanded, "and do not do what I say?" ([Luke 6:46](#)).

The one who "does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" ([John 3:36](#)).

To fail to exclude unbelievers from the (formal) fellowship of the church is a grave error. Only disunity and dissension can result when those who serve Christ try to work in harmony with those who serve Satan. Additionally, to design the activities of the church to appeal to unbelievers, or to allow them to play a major role in the life of the church, is to give them a false sense of security. The result for them may be eternal tragedy. The church must reach out in love to those who do not know Christ. It must never, however, let them feel that they are a part of the fellowship until they come to faith in Christ. ...And no evangelistic purpose should ever be undertaken that alters what the church is by divine design—an assembly of saved worshipers pursuing holiness and spiritual service. - Mark Dever

VIDEO: *"The Story I Tell"*

III. Unifies Us Missionally - Witness

"I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18).

The Church is to FINISH... what the Christ STARTED! - JDP

"The church that lives for itself will die by itself." -
Anonymous

John 15: 26“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

The missionary vision is usually inconvenient, because it places on us many demands to which we must respond—and that not for our benefit but for others. - Gary Hodge (NIV Commentary on Acts)

John 16: 7Nevertheless, 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 go, I will send him to you. 8And when he comes, **he will convict the world...**

Acts 1:8 WITNESS "Witness" in Acts 29X...

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (**cf. Ephesians 6:10ff** *The Whole Armor of God*)

Romans 8:14

“For all who are LED by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
(Steven, Philip, Peter, Paul... Hebrews 11...)

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

People in the world walk by sight & depend on the externals, while Christians walk by faith & depend on the Eternals. Wiersbe

*** Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered & Spirit-led = witness ***

***** BE-ing the Beatitudes = witness**

- Poor in spirit
- Mourn
- Meek
- Hunger/Thirst after Righteousness
- Merciful
- Pure in heart
- Peace-makers
- Persecuted for Righteousness

***** Sharing the Fruit of Spirit = witness**

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

- *** **BE-ing salt/light...** = witness
- *** **Following Jesus** (actually FOLLOWING) = witness
- *** **Championing “biblical” vs. cheap grace** = witness
- *** **Reverent fear (true AWE) of God** = witness
- *** **Faith-filled families** = witness
 - Self-less husbands
 - Submissive wives
 - Biblical parents
 - Obedient children
- * Faith-FULL families = witness!
- *** **Nurturing God’s sheep** = witness
- *** **Fending off Satan’s wolves** = witness
- *** **Confronting false teachers** = witness
- *** **Fighting the good fight** = witness
- *** **Iron sharpening iron** = witness
- *** **Not leaning on our own understanding...**
- *** **Bearing one-other's burdens... *(Law of Christ)***

- *** **Walking by faith (not by sight)** = witness
- *** **Giving out of our need** (Macedonians) = witness
- *** **Going back for more...** (Paul) = witness
- *** **Being an encourager...** (Barnabas) = witness
- *** **Throwing "Matthew parties"...** = witness
- *** **Inviting others to "come & see"** (Andy) = witness
- *** **Fasting** = witness
- *** **God-honoring praying** = witness
- *** **Responding to Mercy** = witness
- *** **Explaining the miraculous** = witness
- *** **Fishing for Men** = witness
- *** **Ambassadorship for Christ** = witness
- *** **Being Persecuted (FOR the gospel)** = witness
- *** **Living-out "Jesus is Lord!"** = witness
- *** **BE-ing the Aroma of Christ** = witness

*** **Seeking FIRST the "Kingdom of God"** = witness

*** **Making multiplying DISCIPLES!** = witness

*** **Intentionally "GO-ing"** = witness

*** **Serving the "least of these"** = witness

*** **Contentedness** = witness

*** **Serving** = witness (I did not come to be served...)

*** **Koinonia = witness** (John 17:21-24) *

** **Not loving this world** = witness (1st John)

*** **Persevering to the end** = witness

*** **Being Courageous inspirations** = witness

- Esther...
- 3 Boys...
- Disciples
- Martyrs

*** **Teaching Truth in Love = witness** (Eph. 4:14-16)

*** **Repenting** = witness

*** **Forgiving** = witness

*** **Restoring** = witness

*** **Bearing Fruit** (30, 60, 100 fold) = witness

*** **Speaking on behalf of God** = witness

- *** **Crucified to self** = witness
- *** **Obedience** (no matter what!) = witness
- *** **Love for one another** = witness
- *** **Jesus is your life's Treasure** = witness

Romans 8:35-39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... [37](#)No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38](#)For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39](#)nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

VIDEO: *"My God Fights For Me"*

CLOSE:

[2 Corinthians 4:7](#)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us...

Let's Pray

NOTES:

THE APPLICATION OF John chapter 14 is significant since for the first time in this Gospel, Jesus speaks in detail to his followers concerning their experience in the church following his departure... This chapter is filled with promises addressed directly to the community of faith, (not to the clergy in Jerusalem or to the crowds in Galilee). Jesus is now anticipating that the community he has built (the Church)... will continue his work when He is gone.

- NIV Application Commentary

The disciples' lives will be a continuation of Jesus' life in the world.

- Gary Hodge

Conditional Connection *****

15 *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ******

Conditional Connection *****

Truth, Love, & Obedience = **Christian Affirmation**

God's Word & Jesus himself repeatedly emphasized that faithful obedience characterizes all TRUE Christians:

Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,'" Jesus demanded, "and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

The one who "does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

Those "who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, [will face God's] wrath and indignation" (Rom. 2:8)...

God's Word says: the unregenerate are those who "do not obey the gospel of God" (1 Peter 4:17).

1 John 2:3-5 = By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

KEY Biblical TEXT

16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another

Helper, that He may be with you forever;

Jesus the Paraclete is now sending a second Paraclete. This means that the ongoing work of the Spirit will be a continuation of the work of Jesus during the disciples' lifetime.

QT: The Holy Spirit is a *paraklētos* (“paraclete”) which means “called alongside to assist & strengthen.”

The Holy Spirit does not work instead of us, or in spite of us, but in us and through us. –

Warren Wiersbe

THE **SECOND PROMISE of the Paraclete** (14:25-26)

Just as Jesus' primary work was revealing the Father (1:18), so now the work of the Spirit- Paraclete is revealing the "Jesus of history" to his followers. - NIV

Application Commentary

“ANOTHER” = “another of the same kind”

Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3-4 & 2 Corinthians 3:17

Jesus will not make Himself known to those who reject Him
John **8:47** *"He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."*

QT: The world bases its peace on its *resources*, while
God's peace depends on *relationship*.

In the world, peace is something you hope for or work for...
but to the Christian, peace is God's wonderful gift, received
by faith.

People in the world walk by sight and depend on the externals, while Christians walk by faith and depend on the Eternals. - Wiersbe

26 "But the Helper ("Paraclete,") the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

“the Helper” Identified as the Holy Spirit Sent by the Father... in Jesus name

The Holy Spirit is a true Christian’s in-heart truth-teacher:

1 John 2:27 *But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.*

If your relationship with sin AND the Spirit have not changed radically... you’re not saved yet. - JDP

To have this Spirit is to have the catalogue of gifts listed in this chapter. Powerful works (14:12), effective prayer (14:13), and the peace of God (14:27) all deserve careful application today.

Purpose, Power, & Persons (link Acts 1:8)

26 *“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will bear witness about Me.*

27 *And you also must bear witness, for you have been with Me from the beginning.*

See the Spirit’s: **PURPOSE**

“bear witness” = verb

[mar-too-reh'-o](#)

Acts 1:8 “witnesses” = noun

[mar'-toos](#)

See the Great Commissions: **Power**

See "Paraclete" (Helper) reintroduced in v.26 for the third time (with #4 & #5 coming later in this passage)...

Since Christ’s “private” ministry began in ch.13, there have been 5 promises of the coming Spirit...
(#1 & #2 were both in ch.14).

v.27...

provides & proclaims the relationship between

the Sender, the Savior,

the Spirit & the Saints

"Trinitarian connectivity" (a.k.a. *"koinonia"*)

*Thus, not only is the Spirit of God
(the Spirit of Jesus)
working in you & thru you...*

HE'S AT WORK ALL AROUND YOU
near & far, now & forevermore!

**Consequently, the question for you and me
is simple & straight-forward...**

***What (if anything)
is the Holy Spirit doing in & thru YOU?***

Case & question in point:

*** Is your ministry the "keyhole" through which the

world sees, hears, and encounters the risen Lord & His redefining gospel? Or, as I fear is the case with so many ministering church-goers, is your Christianity the keyhole through which others see that you & your ministry are the driving force & focus (absent of divine faith)...

No one has EVER been saved by a ministry!

Friend,

I challenge you to compare & contrast your Messiah and your ministry...

**“Christian ministry is a 'means' ...
but our Messiah is the Christian’s end.”** - JDP

1“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. *2*They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. *3*And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor Me. *4*But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

See the Spirit’s: **INPUT**

Intentionally-informs – to prevent falling
away

Irreverent-injustice – “you’ll be put out of
the
church... for BE-ing the
Church.”

Injurious-imposters - “they will kill
Christians
in the name of Christ,” –
others
will murder God’s children
in
name of their false god...”

Ignorant-indignation – “ultimately, all sin
(and
its poison fruit is born out
of a
lack of love & spiritual

ignorance

toward the One true God.”

Inspires-individually - “Forewarned =
Forearmed.”

Per the Spirit, let these
prophetic warnings serve
to inspire you in troubling
times...

. 7Nevertheless, 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 go, I will send Him to you.

See the Spirit's: ***INITIATING***

8And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10concerning righteousness,

*because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; **11** concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

***See the unique role
of the Holy Spirit in Salvation...***

1. The Spirit convicts us of SIN

Response options:

- A. Repent, Believe, Praise, & Obey... to Live
- B. Refuse, Balk, Pretend, & Obsess... to Die

2. The Spirit convicts us of RIGHTEOUSNESS

Response options:

- A. See your need for Christ's righteousness
- B. See yourself as "good enough" for heaven

3. The Spirit convicts us of JUDGMENT

Response options:

- A. ***Believe & Receive...*** in Christ alone, by grace alone, thru faith alone, to the glory of God alone.
- B. ***Disbelieve & die...*** a thousand torturous deaths every day throughout eternity.

VIDEO: “Start A Fire In Me”

Tell Timeless Truths: (vv.12-15)

12“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13**When the Spirit of truth comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. **14He will glorify Me**, for **He will take what is mine and declare it to you**. **15**All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that **He will take what is mine and declare it to you**.

See the Spirit’s: **TRUTHING**
(cf. Ephesians 4:15... “truthing in love”)

- A. Spirit *shares information* (v.12)
- B. Spirit *declares revelation* (v.13a)
- C. Spirit *declares to deploy!* (v.13b-15)

Friend, if you will faithfully follow Christ...

His Holy Spirit will:

- S*** *Support & Sustain you thru your suffering...*
- P*** *Provide the power to employ your witness...*
- I*** *Inform & Inspire your daily, difficult walk...*
- R*** *Refine & reward your faithful obedience...*
- I*** *Initiate & Illuminate your spiritual growth...*
- T*** *Tell & Teach you the timeless truths you need to live by...*

God's People, Power, Purpose & Plan
Acts 1:1-11
January 11, 2015

INTRO: Video "God's Word in Tune – Acts 1:8"

TIMELESS TRUTH: God has a powerful people & a purposed plan (Christ + Comforter + Christians = Church)

VISION: (vv.1-2) In the first book, Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus BEGAN to do and (to) teach, until the day when he was taken up, ***after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.***

***The Church is to FINISH...
what the Christ STARTED!*** - JDP

Take-away: When we become the people of God and embrace the worship of God, we are the Church of God... Then our walk with God will display both the wonder & hope of the world.

II. FUSION: (vv.3-7) (a.k.a. Christ's resurrection ministry)

4And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now

"A spiritual awakening always soars on the wings of the Word." - Lewis Drummond

QUOTE: "Let us remember that Jesus also had the crowds leave him because of what he taught after his initial success. "This is a hard teaching," they said. "Who can accept it?" (John 6:60).

POWER

5for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not a special privilege for some believers, nor are believers challenged and exhorted in Scripture to seek it. It is not even their responsibility to prepare for it by praying, pleading, tarrying, or any other means. The passive voice of the verb translated be baptized indicates the baptism by Jesus Christ with the

Spirit is entirely a divine activity. It comes, like salvation itself, through grace, not human effort.

Titus 3:5-6 says, *"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."* God sovereignly pours out the Holy Spirit on those He saves.

- John MacArthur

1 Corinthians 12:13: *"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*

The baptism with the Holy Spirit implies a full experience of the Spirit, which among other things empowers us for witness.

Paul makes fullness of the Spirit mandatory for Christians with the imperative: *"Be filled with the Spirit"* (Eph. 5:18). Here, however, **the result of the fullness is true, heartfelt worship (5:19-20).**

QUOTE:

*"The church that lives for itself
will die by itself."* - Anonymous

All believers have in them spiritual dynamite for use of gifts, service, fellowship, and witness. They need to experience the release of that power in their lives through not grieving the Spirit by sin (Eph. 4:30), and **being continually filled and controlled by the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)**. The latter takes place as believers yield moment by moment control of their lives to Him, and is the same as yielding their minds to the Word (Col. 3:16).
- MacArthur New Testament Commentary

QUOTE!!!

"Someone once said that 95 percent of what happens in many evangelical churches could be done without the Holy Spirit. Many people will come to these churches attracted by the comprehensive program the church offers. People want a weekly religious dose, and, in our entertainment-oriented culture, a church that provides an entertaining program will

attract people, just like a good concert or sporting event will attract people. But Christian ministry is ministry in the Spirit. Without the Spirit's power, our excellent programs are ultimately futile. So whoever we are and whatever we do for God, our great desire should be to be filled with God's Spirit so that our work will spring from his resulting power.”

- NIV Commentator

Purpose (worship, walk, witness)

1. **Worship** (**Romans 12:1-2**) *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

2. **Walk** (**John 14:23**) *Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.*

3. **WITNESS** "Witness" is a key word in the Book of Acts and is **used twenty-nine (29) times** as either a verb or a noun.

A witness is somebody who tells what he has seen and heard (Acts 4:19-20). When you are on the witness stand in court, the judge is not interested in your ideas or opinions; he only wants to hear what you know.

Our English word martyr comes from the Greek word translated "witness," and many of God's people have sealed their witness by laying down their lives.

1 Corinthians 12:3: Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and ***no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.***

John 14:25-26 25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 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 that I said to you

QUESTION: (from the text...)

So.... WHAT exactly will HAPPEN? (so they may believe)

ANSWER:

John 14:12-14 12“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13“Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14“If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

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***** Faith-filled families** = witness

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***** Not leaning on our own understanding...**

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- *** **Living-out "Jesus is Lord!"** = witness
- *** **BE-ing the Aroma of Christ** = witness
- *** **Seeking FIRST the "Kingdom of God"** = witness

- *** **Making multiplying DISCIPLES!** = witness
- *** **Intentionally “GO-ing”** = witness
- *** **Serving the “least of these”** = witness
- *** **Contentedness** = witness
- *** **Serving** = witness (I did not come to be served...)
- *** **Koinonia = witness** (John 17:21-24) *
- ** **Not loving this world** = witness (1st John)
- *** **Persevering to the end** = witness
- *** **Being Courageous inspirations**= witness
 - Esther...
 - 3 Boys...
 - Disciples
 - Martyrs
 - Karen Watson
- *** **Teaching Truth in Love = witness** (Eph. 4:14-16)
- *** **Repenting** = witness
- *** **Forgiving** = witness
- *** **Restoring** = witness
- *** **Bearing Fruit** (30, 60, 100 fold) = witness
- *** **Speaking on behalf of God** = witness

- *** **Crucified to self** = witness
- *** **Obedience** (no matter what!) = witness
- *** **Love for one another** = witness
- *** **Jesus is your life's Treasure** = witness

T/S:

Romans 8:14

“For all who are LED by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

C. Plan

1. Local...

- a. In home
- b. Close to home

"The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home." - Dr. Oswald Smith

2. Regional...

- a. People you can relate to...
- b. People you don't relate to...

3. Global...

- a. Every Tribe
- b. Every Tongue

Witness = BE-ing... the Lord's born-again, loving & obedient, Holy Spirit-filled, empowered, led & emboldened representative-servant in any environment or encounter, locally, regionally, & globally. – JDP

"...when Jesus is thinking about "the kingdom of God" (v. 3) and "the ends of the earth" (v. 8), they are thinking about their own nation. Twenty centuries later these two errors are still seen in the church." "His last command should be "our first concern." - NIV Commentator

QUOTE: The continuing need for revival of missionary interest arises because of our natural tendency to parochialism. The challenges at home can appear to be so great that we can lose sight of our responsibility to the world. *The missionary vision is usually inconvenient, for it places on us many demands to which we must respond—and that not for our benefit but for others. We may have to make structural changes we are uncomfortable with. But under Spirit-empowered, visionary leadership, we can keep this vision of missions burning.*

See the miracle & Messiah behind our mission:
Christ descended miraculously (virgin birth)
Christ lived miraculously (sinless life)
Christ ministered miraculously (signs & wonders)
Christ died miraculously (prophetic atonement)

**Christ rose miraculously (proving He is the Christ)
Christ now ascends miraculously (proving proof)
AND...
Christ will return miraculously – to reign - Amen!**

The truth that Christ will return provides a powerful motive to serve Him. Paul writes, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10). In Revelation 22:12 the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done." The task of finishing the work that Jesus began, the duty of evangelizing the lost world, is a daunting one. But the Lord in His mercy from the start has provided all the spiritual resources necessary to accomplish that task. It is up to each believer to appropriate those resources and put them to use. "We must work the works of Him who sent [Jesus Christ], as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary

"Living/BE-ing By the Spirit's Power
Acts 2:1-4 & 41-47

Bid Idea: The Holy Spirit inside us empowers us to speak & live God's message to the world!

INTRODUCTION: For Christians, the Holy Spirit provides the power for our spiritual lives... and He cares a great deal about how that power is exercised... We have His power for the accomplishment of HIS mission.

T/S: Today we will see the signature of the Spirit

Spirit's ARRIVAL

- Presence as Creator (always was... Trinity)
- Presence in Creation (Providence)
- Presence in the Christian (Just/Sanc/Glory)
- Presence in the Church (Convict/Collect)
- Presence in the church
 - ~ local
 - ~ leaders
 - ~ lead
 - ~ live
 - ~ love

Spirit's ATTRIBUTES

- Power
- Person
- Personification
- Purpose
- Priorities

Spirit's AFFECTS

- People of the Spirit
 - ~ Christ on Christians:
 - * John 3:3; 16; 36
 - * By this they will know you are My d's...
 - * John 14:15 (cf. Luke 14:27 & 24:44-49)
 - * John 17
 - * John 20:21
 - ~ Acts 2:41-47
 - ~ Philippians 2:1ff
 - ~ Ephesians 1, 2, 4, 6...
 - ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Empowered by the Spirit (Acts 1:8)
 - ~ 2 Peter 1:3
 - ~ Philippians 4:13
- Prayer in the Spirit
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Gifts from the Spirit
- Blessed from the Spirit
- Wars for the Spirit

The Holy Spirit PROVIDES... we ABIDE...

Link key passages

Jesus promises The Helper

- The plan from the beginning...
- See Genesis 3:15 tie in... (divine design)
 - ~ He will crush via our fruitfulness!
 - ~ Disciples are designed to crush Satan!

Jesus purposes The Helper

- Greater things... it is better for you...
- Matthew 28:18... then 19... then 20
- John 13-15

Jesus proves The Helper

- Acts 2:41-47
- Acts 19:1-2
- Philippians 2:1ff

QUOTE: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." - A.W. Tozer

The Holy Spirit:

Who He is...

God - 3rd Person of the Trinity (not an "it")

- Grieve Him... Ephesians 4:30
- Lie to Him... Acts 5:3

Parakleet - "the divine & Holy Helper"

What He does...

Draws some lost to the Lord... John 6:44

Enters/transforms every true Christian...

- 1 Corinthians 12:13
- 2 Corinthians 5:17ff

Intercedes for Christians... Romans 8:26-27
Teaches Christians... John 14:6/Psalm 119:18
Reminds Christians... John 14:26
Guides (counsels) Christians... John 16:13
Fruit-production in Christians... Gal. 5:22-23
Empowers Christ-likeness in us... Acts 1:8
- See Matthew 28:18... then 19... then 20 :-)
- See our BRIDGE Manifesto!

Convicts of sin!
Comforts
Counsels

With whom? - Whoever He chooses (elect!)

What He does NOT do!

Circumvent
Circus-acts

Messiah>Mission>Ministry>Miracle>Me

Spiritual People:
TRUTH
FRUIT
GIFTS

WARFARE
GROWTH

Ordinary people + extraordinary Spirit = exceptional missionaries/Church

Christ + Comforter + Christian = Church

You can no sooner turn Him "on" than someone else can turn Him off!

- Elijah with prophets of Baal

- Matthew 7:21-23

- Spirit-full vs Successful...

- Without vision the people perish! - Prv 29:18

- Acts 19:1-2!!!

POWERFUL "DNA" QUOTE:

To fail to exclude unbelievers from the fellowship of the church is a grave error. Only disunity and dissension can result when those who serve Christ try to work in harmony with those who serve Satan. Additionally, to design the activities of the church to appeal to unbelievers, or to allow

them to play a major role in the life of the church, is to give them a false sense of security. The result for them may be eternal tragedy. The church must reach out in love to those who do not know Christ. It must never, however, let them feel that they are a part of the fellowship until they come to faith in Christ. ...And no evangelistic purpose should ever be undertaken that alters what the church is by divine design—an assembly of saved worshipers pursuing holiness and spiritual service. *** See Mark Dever

*** Define & Defend Church...
“synagogue of Satan” (Rev. 2:9; 3:9)

BEWARE... *I appeal to/urge you, brethren, to take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. (Rom. 16:17-18)*

ALL Christians are to “*strive to excel in building up the church*” (1 Cor. 14:12)

“I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18).

“devoted” = (SPIRIT empowered devotion) No superficial, wishy-washy walks or worship!

"Devoting" = “of one accord” 1:14

C. “themselves” = (voluntary commitment)... came WANTING to learn!

*** NOTE: Ugandan Discipleship process...

* First: Gospel (Stickman)

* Second: Biblical Worldview (JDP)

* Third: How to Study the Bible to apostles’ teaching

(3) Keys... (apostle’s – truth – taught)

1. “apostle’s” = a. Set apart... b. Sent out... c.

Trustworthy...

2. TRUTH (implied)

3. “teaching” =

a. DOCTRINE (matters!)

b. “Equipping” (vs. informing)

QUOTE: The first sign of a Spirit-filled church is one in which the Spirit-filled people do not flee from Scripture and seek a substitute for it but are driven to it to have their spiritual lives rooted and grounded in the Word of God. - Sproul

CAUTION!!! We are told by the polls that the primary reason people come to church on Sunday morning is to enjoy fellowship

with their Christian friends. What motivates people to come to church is not worship but fellowship.

“Our WORSHIP defines our fellowship.” - JDP

NOTE: I have seen this in our ministry... (2 Tim. 2:2)

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6).

The church cannot operate on truth it is not taught... and the fellowship, (“koinonia”)
Fellowship is the spiritual duty of believers to stimulate each other to holiness and faithfulness. More than blessing...

RESPONSIBILITY!!!

Hebrews 10:24-25 charges believers to *"consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."*

Supernatural UNITY

! “one another” verses...

- ! Ephesians = commanded!
- ! John 17 = priestly prayer
 - a. See prayer answered...
 - b. See prayer empowered! (v.47)

Koinonia = *"the fellowship of the Holy Spirit"* (2 Cor. 13:14)

Ultimately, God is the evangelist.

Paul wrote, *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow"*

(**1 Cor. 3:6-7**).

10 Reasons to Desire All the Spiritual Gifts

Article by
Bryan DeWire
Guest Contributor

Some might tell you not to *really* desire all the spiritual gifts. But when you say that, it does not seem to do justice to what 1 Corinthians 12–14 *really* says.

The apostle bookends his famous chapter on love (1 Corinthians 13) with these two (perhaps surprising) charges: “earnestly desire the higher gifts” and “earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy” (1 Corinthians 12:31; 1

[Corinthians 14:1](#)). God means that we desire all of his gifts, not to glut our selfishness, but to selflessly strengthen others — “so that the church may be built up” ([1 Corinthians 14:5](#)).

Here are ten ways and reasons from the New Testament to desire all the spiritual gifts, not just the comfortable ones.

1. Desire all the spiritual gifts because you desire God himself. “To each is given *the manifestation of the Spirit* for the common good” ([1 Corinthians 12:7](#)).
2. Desire all the spiritual gifts, knowing that “the greatest of these is love” ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#); cf. [2 Thessalonians 1:3](#)). Compared to other “higher gifts” (such as tongues, healing, and prophecy† among others), love is “a still more excellent way” ([1 Corinthians 12:31](#)).
3. Desire all the spiritual gifts because you need him to overcome the satanic fear that dwells in your heart ([2 Timothy 1:6–7](#)). As Sam Storms writes, “My opposition to spiritual gifts was also energized by fear . . . [like] the fear of what might occur were I fully to relinquish control of my life and mind and emotions to the Holy Spirit” (*The Beginner’s Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, 10).
4. Desire all the spiritual gifts, knowing that discernment is needed. “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good” ([1 Thessalonians 5:19–20](#)). “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but *test the spirits* to see whether they are from God” ([1 John 4:1](#); cf. [1 Corinthians 14:29–32](#)).
5. Therefore, desire all the spiritual gifts, knowing that good things can be twisted and corrupted. But, as Storms says, “abuse is no excuse for disuse” (*Convergence: The Spiritual Journeys of a Charismatic Calvinist*, 206).
6. Desire all the spiritual gifts because God commands it ([1 Corinthians 12:31](#); [14:1](#), [39](#)). In fact, God tells us, “Do not forbid speaking in tongues” ([1](#)

Corinthians 14:39) and, “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies” (1 Thessalonians 5:19–20).

7. Desire all the spiritual gifts, knowing that “all things should be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).
8. Desire all the spiritual gifts because you long for God’s people to be as built up and encouraged and consoled as is pleasing to him (1 Corinthians 14:3). In fact, “since you are *eager for manifestations of the Spirit*, strive to excel in building up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12). In other words, desire the gift of prophecy in order to build up and encourage and console others, in order to have a greater manifestation of the Spirit of God himself.
9. Desire all the spiritual gifts, knowing that prophesying and casting out demons is no sure sign of being known by God (Matthew 7:22–23).
10. Desire all the spiritual gifts, knowing that suffering will come. First, just as God did with Paul, he may choose to afflict you so that you might not become wickedly proud because of your great giftings (2 Corinthians 12:7). Secondly, the world, the flesh, and the devil will all fight against a greater manifestation of God through his Spirit in your life because of these gifts.