

The Spirit of God
Week 13
The Holy Spirit – The Need of this Hour

LBC 28/1/04

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6

Review:

Last week we discussed the fruit of the Spirit:

1. **Love** – Unconditional love or benevolence.
2. **Joy** – Depends upon an inward faith in the love and goodness of God.
3. **Peace** – Peace in the midst of trials and persecutions, and peace among one another.
4. **Longsuffering** – The ability to cheerfully endure an unbearable situation.
5. **Gentleness** – Easy going.
6. **Goodness** – A Christian must be a good man who does good to all.
7. **Faith** – A Christian is to be a man who can be trusted in.
8. **Meekness** – Subdued strength, or power under control.
9. **Temperance** – Self-control.

Introduction:

ILLUSTRATION – Billy Sunday was born in November 19, 1862, and grew up in an orphanage. He grew up with a strong love for baseball and became a pro player with the Chicago White Sox in his early 20's. Billy got saved in 1887 and became an evangelist like the world has never seen since. He preached to over **100,000,000** people without a microphone, and saw about **1,000,000** souls come to Christ.

In 1916 he went to Baltimore, Maryland, and built a tabernacle called the Salvation Shed. It seated 15,000 people and 5,000 more would stand during the services. On the last day 24,000 people filled the building four times, so Billy preached to about 96,000 people that day. More than 23,000 people received Christ as Saviour. In Kansas City, 40,000 people came in the rain to the opening service. In Pittsburgh, over 26,000 conversions were recorded. In Columbus, Ohio, 18,337 were saved. In Syracuse, New York, 22, 299 received Christ.

ILLUSTRATION – Bro. Hyles went to Chicago in 1959. Everyone said that a church could not be built in that area, the largest Catholic diocese in the world. What has God done at First Baptist Church?

- Average Sunday morning attendance of over 20,000.
- Hundreds of thousands of souls saved.
- Over a thousand pastors and missionaries serving around the world.
- 6 Christian schools.
- A fundamental Bible college with over 1,500 students.
- 3,000 soul winners going out every week.
- Over 100 buses running every Sunday throughout the Chicago area.
- Thousands of volunteer lay people serving for many hours every weekend in the homeless ministry, blind ministry, Spanish ministry, truck stop ministry, sailor ministry, Bible Clubs, bus runs, etc. etc.
- An annual pastors conference with over 7,000 delegates, and an annual youth conference with over 7,000 young people and youth workers.
- They are now building a 10,000 seat, \$13 million auditorium.

HOW?

“Not by might, nor by power, **but by my spirit**, saith the LORD of hosts.”

If we would see God do great things today, and if we would become mature, victorious, useful Christians, then we must see our **desperate need** for the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.

- We don't need new methods.
- “ “ “ religious rock concerts.
- “ “ “ charismatic praise and worship services.
- “ “ “ new Bibles.
- “ “ “ new theology.
- “ “ “ more money.
- “ “ “ bigger and fancier buildings.
- “ “ “ Bible “scholars” who go down deep and come up dry.
- “ “ “ doctorate degrees from the famous seminaries.
- “ “ “ help from neo-evangelical, pseudo-fundamental authors and speakers.
- “ “ “ spectacular “signs and wonders.”
- “ “ “ user-friendly, compromising “preaching.”
- **WE NEED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

*** Let me talk to you tonight about our desperate need of the Holy Spirit:**

1. The Spirit Of God is our only hope of victory.

We **all** struggle with the flesh:

Romans 7:22-24 “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

Although we will not be **sinless** in this life, we are able to enjoy a **measure** of spiritual **victory**:

Romans 6:14 “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

The question is: how? Certainly not by the power of our own will or resolution! The way to victory is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Satan is attacking the people of God with all the hordes of Hell. What hope do we have of winning this terrible battle? The way to victory is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:10, 11 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

What hope do we have of truly becoming more like Jesus? How can we mature and be transformed into a copy of Christ? The only hope is the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17, 18 “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

ILLUSTRATION – Reformers Unanimous is a program designed to help Christians have victory. But, the program won't give you victory – it is the Holy Spirit Who gives you victory. Reformers' Unanimous just helps you live in tune with the Holy Spirit.

2. The Spirit of God is our only hope of fruitfulness and usefulness.

Sooner or later you will learn that we have absolutely **no power of our own** to bring forth good fruit and be used of God to bring forth fruit in the lives of others!

John 15:4, 5 “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

No wonder, then, that the apostles and early disciples were reminded of their need for the power of the Holy Spirit in order that they might preach the Gospel around the world:

Luke 24:46-49 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Why all the emphasis on the power of the Holy Spirit? It's very simple: The Spirit of God is our **ONLY** hope of **fruitfulness** and **usefulness**! Without Him, we are absolutely powerless and helpless.

ILLUSTRATION – Kevin Wynne in Mexico City.

ILLUSTRATION – Mark Bachman in Germany.

ILLUSTRATION – Mark Bosje in Wanganui, New Zealand.

ILLUSTRATION – Dave Baker in Columbia, TN. Seven preachers took him to lunch and told why you can't build a church there – but God has done it. Several millions dollars of property; new auditorium and Sunday school building; strong Christian school; high days of well over 1,000.

ILLUSTRATION – Bruce Goddard in Wildomar, CA.

What one thing do all these men and churches have in common? **The POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

What we need in our churches is Spirit-filled and Spirit-empowered pastors and Christians who are busy doing the work of God!

- We need Spirit-empowered preachers.
- “ “ “ “ youth leaders.
- “ “ “ “ Sunday school teachers.
- “ “ “ “ soul winners.
- “ “ “ “ parents.
- “ “ “ “ husbands and wives.
- “ “ “ “ crèche workers.
- “ “ “ “ ushers.
- “ “ “ “ deacons.
- “ “ “ “ teenagers.
- “ “ “ “ adults.
- **We need Spirit-empowered Christians!**

The Spirit of God is our ONLY hope of fruitfulness and usefulness!

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 “¹And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ²For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

People often say that “It can’t be done in Australia.” **Really?**

- R. A. Torrey saw 77,000 people saved here in 7 weeks.
- Billy Graham preached to crowds of up to 100,000 in the 1950’s, and I still meet people who got saved at his meetings.

HOW? The power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

- Do you see your desperate need of the Holy Spirit’s power?
- Do you realise your own weakness and insufficiency?
- Do you understand that without Jesus, you can do **nothing**?
- Are you willing to pay **any** price for the power of the Holy Spirit?

“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:” (**Isaiah 44:3**)

What is the need of this hour? THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Review / Discussion: