

June 22, 2003  
AM Service  
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“Filled With The Holy Spirit”  
Acts 2

A few weeks ago we celebrated Pentecost Sunday. We mentioned to you that Sunday that Pentecost is considered the Birthday of the Church. It is the day that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus (the church). And many joined the church on that day of Pentecost also known as the Feast of first fruits (and so the church was receiving the first fruits of preaching Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit which had been given to them). It was also significant that the Holy Spirit was given on the Jewish feast of Pentecost because at least as early as the time of Christ the Jews celebrated Pentecost as a remembrance of when God gave the law to Moses. And so as the law was given with great wonder and glory now the Spirit is given with great wonder and glory. And the law would now be written on our hearts. We would not just have a written law which God commands to be obeyed. But now God would put His Spirit in us giving us power to keep His law.

In Acts 1:8 (NIV) we see that Jesus had promised His followers: “... you will receive *power* when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my *witnesses*....” And this is exactly what happened.

**I Power and Witnesses**

The Holy Spirit came upon them and filled them and gave them power to preach about Jesus. They were so anointed to witness about Jesus that about 3000 were added to the church on that one day.

1. The word “Power” is the Greek: *du-na-mis* from which we get our word *dynamite*. And so it means miraculous power – mighty ability or mighty works. There was a comedian several years ago who made the word *dynamite* famous (Some of you may be too young to remember him). When he really liked something he’d say, “DY-NO-MITE!” There are those who would say that they are Christians but they are just Christians – ho-hum Christians. But there are others who have the Holy Spirit filling them. You see a power in their lives that you don’t see in others. They are living for the Lord and sharing their faith in the Lord. And when you need prayer they are the one’s you want praying for you. Their worship is real. Their love is real. And they live holy and upright lives. They are “DY-NO-MITE” Christians! Are you a “ho –hum” Christian or a “DY-NO-MITE!” Christian?

2. The word “Witnesses” in v8 is the Greek: *Mar-tus* from which we get our word *martyr* (one who bears witness by his death or bears witness even if it means death. It is someone who has given His life for what he believes).

If we put these two words together Jesus promised that we would receive mighty power to witness for Him with our lips and our lives. His work would continue by His Holy Spirit working mightily through us. People would see Jesus as we live for Him i.e. as we are willing to give our life for Him. Our life, lived in holiness, righteousness – doing what is right, and love will witness of the reality of Jesus. And when we speak about Jesus our words will have power.

Let me take you back to that first day that the Holy Spirit was poured out by Jesus on His followers:

Acts 2:1-13 NLT

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. (As far as speaking in other languages v 5f explains)

5 Godly Jews from many nations were living in Jerusalem at that time. 6 When they heard this sound, they came running to see what it was all about, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were beside themselves with wonder. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking the languages of the lands where we were born! 9 Here we are--Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya toward Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), 11 Cretans, and Arabians. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. 13 But others in the crowd were mocking. "They're drunk, that's all!" they said. (The disciples were able to speak in all the different languages of the people who were present there that day, although they had never learned nor ever spoke in the languages of those people before.)

## **II Filled and Spoke**

And so two things happen: They were filled and they had power for witnessing as they spoke about the wonderful things God had done. .

1. They were filled: even those who did not understand knew they were filled. They thought they were filled with alcohol, which was incorrect, but they knew they were filled with something. Peter corrects them. He says that they are not drunk but that what people were seeing was the promise of God spoken through the prophet Joel being fulfilled (v17): 'In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people...' "Upon *all* people" that includes *you*!

2. Peter, filled with the Spirit spoke and gave this witness or message about Jesus:

God The Father publicly endorsed Jesus as His Son, whom He sent. The Father endorsed Him by doing wonderful miracles, wonders, and signs through Him. But with the help the Jews and the Romans, we nailed Him to the cross and murdered Him. Yet, it was all part of God's prearranged plan. For God sent Jesus to be the sacrifice for sin when He died on the cross. Then God released Him from the horrors of death and raised Him back to life again, for death could not keep Him in its grip.

Now Jesus sits on the throne of highest honor in heaven, at the Father's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave Jesus the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as we are hearing about today.

So let it be clearly known by everyone here today that God has made this Jesus whom we crucified by our sins to be both Lord and Messiah!/Savior.

This is basically the message that Peter preached that day. And when the people realized that their sin was responsible for crucifying the Messiah, the Son of God, they were deeply convicted and they asked, "What should we do?" In Acts 2:38 NLT - Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **III How You Can Be Filled (To Have Power to Witness for Christ):**

When you receive Jesus that is:

1. When you realized you have sinned (or have done things that go against the will of God), and because of that Jesus was put to death to take the punishment for your sin, and
  2. Believe He was raised from the dead so that He can forgive your sin, and
  3. If you will ask Him to forgive you because you are willing to turn from your sin and be baptized or publicly profess that you are now a follower of Jesus,
- Then you will be forgiven and you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift.

Everyone who receives Jesus receives the Holy Spirit the moment they put their faith in Jesus asking Him to forgive them.

But the Bible speaks of people being filled with the Holy Spirit again and again.

(Continued next week)