

POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Reading: Acts 1:1-8

Text: 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. (Acts 1:8, KJV).

M.T.: Like a natural army that cannot operate without fuel in the fuel tanks, so it is that we need the endowment of power from on high in order to fulfill our ministry on the earth.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

There is a baptism in water AND there is a baptism (immersion) into the Holy Ghost. (v4)

THEY RECEIVED THIS BAPTISM ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4, KJV).

WHEN THEY RECEIVED IT THEY SPOKE IN OTHER TONGUES

This was a supernatural phenomenon in which they were given the ability to speak in languages they did not know. This was evidence that they had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but the REAL fruit of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is "POWER" to be witnesses. Notice:

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41, KJV).

YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER

If you don't have POWER in your life to be a witness, you still need the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

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. (Luke 24:49, KJV).

POWER (dunamis) strength, power, ability; inherent power, residing in a person or thing by virtue of its nature; power for performing miracles; moral power and excellence of soul, power to heal disease.

- Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (Ephesians 6:10, KJV).
- And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. (Luke 5:17, KJV).
- And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: (1 Corinthians 2:4, KJV).
- For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. (Romans 15:18-19, KJV).

IN ACTS 8, A CITY WAS TURNED TO GOD THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. (Acts 8:5-6, KJV).

MY LIFE: I had been searching for POWER and REALITY for a long time. I was looking for it in people, in places, in drugs, in Eastern Religion, meditation, yoga. My wife and I were vagabond hippies.

In 1977, I attended a meeting in Caledonia, MN., where the power of God was in manifestation. People were worshipping, dancing, singing, praising God in other tongues. It was what you would call a wild meeting. During that meeting, my friend, who had invited me to the meeting was miraculously healed of valvular heart disease. After that meeting, his blood pressure was restored to normal and his heart murmur was gone.

I began to TAKE HEED to the things that were being spoken. I began to seek God, read my Bible, attend church every time there was services, but I was not yet right with God. However, about 2 1/2 months later, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, was baptized and was transformed by the power of God, after God had spoken to me to “turn from the things of the world.”

I also received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost, with an infusion of power that enabled me to live for God. I literally felt the power of power all through my being like waves of glory, like liquid love, like 10,000 volts of electricity. I began to speak with other tongues and prophecy.

God spoke to me many things: “Precious is the blood of the Lamb.” “I give you a new life, free from the bonds of iniquity.” “Live a holy life.”

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (Acts 8:12, KJV).

-They believed and were baptized. They were saved, going to heaven. . . but had not yet received the POWER.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:14-17, KJV).

-They had received the Holy Ghost in salvation, but had not yet received the mighty power of God through the baptism of the Holy Ghost. If you've been saved YOU NEED the mighty power of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

IN ACTS 10, THEY RECEIVED SALVATION AND THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. (Acts 10:44-48, KJV).

IN ACTS 19, THEY RECEIVED DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE HOLY GHOST

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19:1-6, KJV).

RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST TODAY!

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Luke 11:13, KJV.

Testimony from Ada. Receive by faith. Then yield yourself to God. He inspires, you speak.