



Living With Power

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^a as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ... ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Acts 2:1-8, 12-13

What happened at Pentecost was a fulfillment of the Spirit's presence in the OT and the promises of Jesus .

(See Gen. 1:2; 2:7, 6:3, Num. 11:24-30, Judges 3:10; 6:34; Psalm 18:15; 51:10-11; 104:29-30; Ezek. 37:1-14; Joel 2:28-29; Hag. 2:4-5; Zech. 4:6; John 14:16-20)

- I. Before Pentecost, the purpose of the Spirit was to dispel fear and empower ordinary people to achieve courageous action on behalf of God's Kingdom. However, it was unsatisfying because:
 - The Spirit was temporary, not permanent .
 - The Spirit was selective, not universal .
 - The Spirit was corporate, not individual.
- II. After Pentecost, we find evidence of a continual filling, whereby every Christian is empowered to know and experience the fullness that the Spirit brings.
 - Pentecost was a one-time event that marked the birth of the church. Christians receive the Spirit upon their conversion. (see 1 Corinthians 12:13)

- Pentecost indicated that supernatural power [dunamis] was to be a characteristic of every believer. (see Eph 5:18)

There are Four Common errors dealing with Pentecost & the Power:

- The Power has ceased
- The Power becomes a compulsion .
- The Power is controlled .
- The Power is circumvented .

(see Romans 8:5-11; Galatians 3:3)

Our studied Biblical response: to seek the continual filling of the Spirit based on the conviction that there is always something more. This manifests in vibrant intimacy, abundant joy and power for service in ministry. (see Eph. 5:18-20; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 15:13-16; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 1 Thess. 1:5)

Small Group Questions

1. Take a moment on your own or with your small group and read all the Passages referenced in the first point of the sermon above (explaining how the Spirit is fulfillment). As you read, come up with a list of the descriptors of the Spirit. (What does the Spirit do?)
2. As you think about “before” and “after” Pentecost, what are some of the main differences for the people of God in terms of the role of the Spirit and the Spirit’s activity in our lives? (reference outline and scriptures for before and after as necessary)
3. Of the four common errors...
 - a. Which one have you experienced growing up, if any?
 - b. Which one would most describe your tendency?
4. Pastors Jay & Doug discussed seeking the continual filling of the Spirit based on the conviction that there is something more, manifest in vibrant intimacy, abundant joy and power for service in ministry.
 - a. What does that mean to you?
 - b. Which one(s) of those 3 evidences do you most desire?
 - c. What are some ways that you can seek that?
5. If you have any follow-up questions, don’t feel like you need to answer them now. Get a list together with your small group leader and have them email it to the teaching team via doug@northway.org.