

KEY THEMES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

CHURCH RESET!
The Hand of God in the Early Church and Ours



**The Forgotten
Enabler:
The Holy Spirit**

ACTS 2:1-11, 38-41



Message Guide | January 17, 2021

Church Reset

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SERMON SERIES

TODAY'S MESSAGE | JANUARY 17, 2021

The Forgotten Enabler: The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-11, 38-41

Who is the most overlooked member of the Holy Trinity? What is the most probable cause of death of many churches today? Why are so many Christians living powerless, aimless, unfulfilled lives? The answers are similar. The neglect of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing tragedy, and we must make sure we don't go the same way, whether as a church or as individual Christians.

Why has modern Christianity neglected the Holy Spirit? One or both are true:

- We rely too much on ourselves – the viral spirit of the selfie generation has infected even the church: “My _____ is sufficient for me”!
- We are afraid of being lumped together with the excesses of our Pentecostal brethren. If we be humble enough, we actually have a few things to learn from them.

Let's use the birth of the church at Pentecost to examine the Biblical teaching about our forgotten Enabler, the Holy Spirit:

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE CHURCH

The Holy Spirit shows His power and presence usually through proclamation (“forth-telling” today)

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 4:8, Acts 4:31).

The Holy Spirit and the Word of God never work independently of each other. Where the Word is proclaimed, the Holy Spirit is there in power.

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word (Acts 11:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)



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The Holy Spirit is the great Enabler of church multiplication.

Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied (Acts 17:6, Zechariah 4:6).

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO YOU AS A CHRISTIAN

The Holy Spirit was given to you upon salvation.

Acts 2:38 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.

The source of Jesus’ power and words (John 3:34-35) and therefore your power and words, is the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

The Holy Spirit creates people of power and spiritual character.

Acts 6:3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty (Acts 11:24; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22-24).

The Holy Spirit spoke clearly to His servants then. Why should we think that He no longer speaks clearly to us now?

Acts 8:29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot” (Acts 10:19 Acts 13:2, Acts 16:6-7).

FINAL THOUGHTS

What is the way back? How can the church and the believer regain its neglected power?

- 1) Do not grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:25-32) – The context is about sin. As believers, let us confess and renounce all known sin and even pray “cleanse me from hidden faults” (Ps. 19:12)
- 2) Do not quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:17-20) – The context is ministry. When believers pour cold water on the fire of ministry, they quench the Spirit. Neither should we hinder others in their ministry for God.



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We must be very careful not to grieve or offend the Holy Spirit. He will not force himself on us against our wills (1 Cor. 14:32), but if we resist and quench and oppose Him, then His empowering will depart, and He will remove much of the blessing of God from our lives.

3) Be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16) – This is simply taking the Word of God and letting it indwell and infuse every part of our soul. To be filled with God's Spirit is to be filled with His Word. And as we are filled with God's Word, it controls our thinking and action, and we thereby come more and more under the Spirit's control. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the presence of God Himself, and results in desiring what God desires, doing what God wants, speaking by God's power, and praying and ministering in God's strength.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is the presence of spiritual accomplishments in someone's ministry a guarantee that the Holy Spirit is pleased with all of that person's life? Why, or why not?
2. Have you ever been especially aware of the Holy Spirit's empowering in a specific situation of ministry? How did you perceive the presence of the Holy Spirit at that time, or what made you aware of His presence?
3. Pray together, and ask God for a sensitivity to the pleasure or displeasure of the Holy Spirit, and that He enables you all to live lives filled with spiritual power and the fruit of the Spirit.



WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

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CHURCH UPDATES



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REPEAT ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

Vote online and on-site from January 17 to 31, 2021
Visit election.gcf.org.ph for more details.



PRE-REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

To know more about the safety guidelines and restrictions, and to reserve a seat, visit tinyurl.com/GCFreservation. Pre-registration is open every week from Wednesday (5:00pm) to Saturday (11:59pm) or upon full booking, whichever comes first

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Mondays and Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF Facebook and YouTube

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS

Every Wednesday starting January 20 | 8:00 p.m.
Livestream on GCF Young Adults Facebook and GCF Main YouTube

LIVESTREAM (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 1:00 p.m. | on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | 9 p.m. | via Zoom

PRESSING ON GROWTH GROUP (COUPLES (AGE 30 TO 40))

Sunday | 4:00 p.m. | via Zoom | with Dexter Deniña

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY!

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Youtube/Viber: GCF Main

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

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