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THE POWER

We saw in Acts 2:1-12 how 120 of Jesus' followers were baptized in the Holy Ghost and spoke in "other tongues (languages)." The crowds in the area who witnessed it were puzzled, asking one another, "**what does this mean?**" (v. 12)

It meant they were filled by the Holy Spirit with power as Jesus had spoken (Acts 1:8), and as prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:28) 800 years earlier. It was the power needed to do the works greater than the works Jesus did on earth. (John 14:12-14) What demonstrations of that power occurred?

Firstly, was when Peter got up and preached to the surrounding crowd, three thousand of them got saved. Even Billy Graham would have been proud of that! (Peter did not even have Graham's advantage of radio, television, and huge stadiums.)

Secondly, Peter and John healed a man born lame who was now over 40 years old. This not only got them in trouble with the religious authorities, but also gave Peter another opportunity to preach his second sermon to a large crowd.

Thirdly, his second sermon now saw five thousand men (plus women perhaps) get saved. (Acts 4:4) Afterward, they were again officially rebuked and forbidden to preach, so they gathered with other believers and prayed that they ALL would have holy boldness to speak the word, to heal the sick, and do signs and wonders in Jesus' name.

God faithfully answered that prayer. Many more converts were added (Acts 5:12-16). They performed many signs and wonders. News went abroad. People were brought to them even from all the cities and villages around Jerusalem. The power and anointing of the Holy Spirit were so strong upon them that people would even lay the many sick along the streets in hopes that Peter and the various apostles would walk down that street. They believed that just their shadow being cast upon them would bring healing and deliverance. Even the demons could not stand their shadow falling upon them. Now THAT'S POWER!!

That is the power for the "greater works" that comes with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, most "Holy Ghost baptized" believers of today are not walking and working in that same level of power and anointing. Why is that?

It is not because God has withdrawn it. There are those in the past 140 years that I know have operated in that same power. Most "believers" do not. Perhaps they have no real understanding due to a lack of teaching. Perhaps they do not spend hours in prayer and do little or no fasting. Jesus' works came after he would spend many hours in prayer. He also fasted 40 days in the wilderness. Yes, fasting, along with prayer gives us great increase of power in our life; this is a proven fact. I have personally experienced it.

We next shall explore the significance of “other tongues” that are vital to this powerful experience. If you missed the beginning of this series, go back and read my articles found on our website of Newsletter Archives beginning with YOUR COMMISSION, AMBASSADOR on 4-27-2020.

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