



Messiah Empowers

Part 1: "The Wow Factor!"

(Acts 1:1-9 and 2:1-4)

Acts 1:1-9

(English Standard Version)

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

- ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:1-9

(English Standard Version)

- ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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."
- ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 2:1-4

(English Standard Version)

- **2** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Jewish Festival of Pentecost

- **Known as: Festival of Harvest, Festival of Weeks, or Pentecost**
- One of the three most important festivals in the Jewish calendar (Festival of Unleavened Bread/Passover; Pentecost; Festival of Booths/Final Harvest)
- As a “pilgrimage festival,” it was a national gathering in Jerusalem
- Held at the end of the Wheat Harvest in the third month (c. June)
- A festival of thanksgiving and covenant renewal with a celebratory offering of new grain from the recent harvest
- Commemorates the giving of the Law through Moses

I. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- **The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah**
- ²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.
Genesis 19:23-25

I. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- **The outpouring of the Holy Spirit**
- “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2:28)

I. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- **The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on King Saul with the gift of prophecy:**
- ⁹ When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.
- ¹⁰ When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them.
- ¹¹ And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, “What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” (1 Samuel 10:9-11)

II. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)

- **2** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound **like a mighty rushing wind**, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

“Ruach” = Spirit, Breath, or Wind

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.** (Genesis 1:1-2 ESV)

- In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth— **2** and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and **a mighty wind sweeping over the waters—** (Genesis 1:1-2 New American Bible)
- **The Wow Factor!**
- **3** And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (ESV)

II. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)

- **The Disciples Given the Spiritual Gift of Speaking in Tongues**
- **2** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- **4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

The Effect on Their Listeners

- Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.
- ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because **each one was hearing them speak in his own language.** ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” (Acts 2:5-11 ESV)

The Purpose of Receiving the Holy Spirit: To Share the Gospel

- 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.** (Acts 1:8)
- And he said to them, “**Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel** to the whole creation. (Mark 16:15)

The Purpose of Receiving the Holy Spirit: To Make Disciples

- And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:18-20)

III. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- **Spiritual Gifts Bestowed in the Baptism of the Spirit**
- And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.
- ² And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”
- ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.** ⁷ There were about twelve men in all. (Acts 19:1-7)

III. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- **The Gift of Prophecy Builds Up the Church**
- Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.
- ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
- ³ On the other hand, **the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.** ⁴ **The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.**
- ⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. (1 Corinthians 14:1-5)

III. The Wow Factor of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- **The Powerful Effect of Prophecy**
- Thus, tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?
- ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ **the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.** (1 Corinthians 14:22-25)

Application:

- To what extent have dramatic spiritual events added to your awe and reverence for God?



Let Us Pray

