

20260524 Power from Pentecost – Duane Newport

In 1989, Energizer Batteries introduced a pink bunny playing a drum, wearing shades and blue sandals. Ever since, that bunny has been beating his drum across our television screens. His first commercial proved it — he’s unstoppable!

The word “power” has become part of everyday conversation: power lunches, power walks, power bars, power dressing, power selling. We run power searches on the internet. Every nation depends on a power source—hydroelectric or otherwise. When power fails, life descends into chaos. Whether we like it or not, we depend on power to function.

Just as the world needs power, so does the Christian. Where do we get ours?

Let’s read **Acts 1:4-11**. The promise Jesus refers to is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Today, we will examine these verses and highlight three important truths about the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. It is a Priority
2. It is Our Source of Power
3. It Equips Us to Fulfil God’s Purpose

1. A Priority

In Acts 1:4-5 we read: ***“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father... for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”***

Jesus has just ascended to heaven. His final words — ***“You shall be My witnesses”***—are still ringing in the disciples’ ears. Yet before releasing them, He gave a clear command: ***“Wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father.”***

The disciples were told to witness, but Jesus placed an even higher priority on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He knew the persecution that awaited them. Without the Spirit’s power they could neither endure nor be effective witnesses. Jesus saw it as essential.

This priority appears repeatedly in the Book of Acts; for example, Paul. In Acts 8 and 9 we meet the church’s greatest persecutor. He ***“made havoc of the church, entering every house and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison”*** (Acts 8:3). On the Damascus Road a brilliant light struck him down. Jesus confronted him but did not immediately send him out to preach. Instead, He told him to wait in the city.

Later Ananias was sent to pray for him: ***“Brother Saul... the Lord Jesus... has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit”*** (Acts 9:17). Only after being filled did Paul begin preaching (v.20). Salvation came on the road; empowerment came through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus made it a priority.

We see the same pattern in Acts 19:1-6. Paul meets disciples in Ephesus who had only known John’s baptism. After explaining the gospel, they were baptised in water, and when Paul laid hands on them ***“the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”*** Even after salvation, Paul’s priority was the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Hudson Taylor, pioneer missionary to China, declared: **“No amount of money can convert a single soul. What is needed is that men and women filled with the Holy Spirit should give themselves to the work.”**

Jesus, Paul, and Hudson Taylor all treated the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a non-negotiable priority. It should be the same for us.

2. Our Source of Power

Acts 1:8 declares: **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...”** All work requires power. Digging a hole, walking, driving a car, flying a plane, each needs an energy source. Different tasks require different kinds and degrees of power. The power that moves your legs will not move a bus; the power that moves a bus will not lift a plane.

Missionary A.J. Gordon asked: **“Have we forgotten that there is a Holy Spirit, that we must insist upon walking on crutches when we can fly?”**

It is not enough to be born again and water-baptised (both are necessary). To reach full potential, to throw away the crutches, it is important that we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This is the Christian’s true source of power—power to serve, power to walk victoriously, power to be effective witnesses.

3. Equips Us to Fulfil God’s Purpose

Luke emphasises that the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve—specifically to be witnesses of Jesus. The second half of Acts 1:8 says: **“You shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

We see this dramatically in Peter’s life. Before Pentecost, in Mark 14, Peter swore he would die for Jesus—yet hours later he denied knowing Him three times, crippled by fear.

Then came Acts 2. The 120 were gathered when **“suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind... divided tongues, as of fire... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”** (Acts 2:2-4). A tongue of fire rested on Peter. Holy Spirit power surged through him. He stood boldly before the crowd that could have killed him and declared:

“Men and brethren... let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:29,36). Three thousand were saved that day. The same man who once cowered in fear now preached with courage.

- Wigglesworth illustration

The Holy Spirit equips us to heal the broken-hearted and set captives free—to fulfil God’s purpose on the earth.

Conclusion

The same power that energised the early church is available today. Don’t settle for less. Make the baptism in the Holy Spirit your priority, receive your source of power, and step into the purpose God has for your life. Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us afresh.