

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

1 LUKE LAYS THE FOUNDATIONS OF HIS LESSON:

When the Holy Spirit comes, there is an empowerment to witness about Jesus which you previously did not have.

- A. There had been no prophetic revelation for 400 years
 - a. One must understand there was no move of the Spirit, no encounter with his presence, no utterance from the Spirit for 400 years.
 - i. This is true from the time of Malachi to the events recorded in the Gospels.
 - ii. God had been silent during this time.
 - iii. But then, there is a suddenly.

2 THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PROMISED (LUKE 1:14-15)

- A. Zechariah is ministering at the temple.
 - i. An angel announces the birth of John the Baptist.
 - ii. John and Elizabeth had been unable to conceive a child.
 - iii. Zechariah had difficulty in receiving the promise (Luke 1:18).
 - iv. Zechariah then finds himself unable to speak (Luke 1:20).
 - a. A likely reason that Zechariah’s mouth was shut might be that God could not have him speaking death over the promise.

3 THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PROMISED (LUKE 1:14-15)

- A. The angel announces the birth of Jesus.
 - i. Mary received the word and she was filled with the Spirit
 - ii. She traveled to visit Elizabeth.
- B. Elizabeth and the baby in her womb are filled with the Spirit (Luke 1:41).
 - i. Luke is crystal clear in this passage: When Elizabeth heard the voice, she was filled with the Spirit. There was a power behind her proclamation. Luke’s motif is beginning to surface. Like a thread through a tapestry, Luke begins to weave a pattern showing that the empowerment of the Holy Spirit brings about an empowered proclamation.
 - ii. This happened upon Mary’s arrival and greeting.
 - iii. Elizabeth’s speech is inspired to proclaim the truth about Mary’s baby.

4 ZECHARIAH IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (LUKE 1:62-80)

- i. As those around him asked the name of his son, Zechariah's tongue was loosed.
- ii. He was filled with the Spirit
- iii. And he received a prophetic unction concerning his son John. This is the second time Luke mentions the Holy Spirit and it is followed by the same manifestation that Elizabeth experienced. When he was filled with the Spirit, Zechariah's proclamation was inspired in a manner he had never experienced before—even though he had served as a priest his entire life.

5 SIMEON IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (LUKE 2:24-25)

- A. Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the temple.
- B. In the presence of Jesus, Simeon is filled with the Spirit and gives prophetic utterance concerning the infant (Luke 2:27-32)
- C. It cannot be understated that once again (the third time) the Holy Spirit is mentioned. There is an empowerment upon Simeon's proclamation that is inspired by God Almighty.

6 JOHN THE BAPTIST'S MINISTRY

- A. John preached a powerful message of repentance.
- B. Why did the multitudes come to hear John's words?
 - i. It wasn't because of his popularity.
 - ii. It wasn't his ability to articulate the message.
 - iii. He was empowered by the Spirit to perform the ministry in which his father had prophesied. This took place because he had been empowered by the Spirit (which is explicit from Luke 1:41) when he was in his mother's womb. We know from that passage that John was empowered by the Spirit his entire life, therefore his proclamation was profound and captivated the heart of a nation.

7 JESUS IS BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Upon Jesus's arrival, John announces him as the Lamb of God (Luke 3; John 1:29).
 - i. A supernatural occurrence of God's favor was released over Jesus during his water baptism.
 - ii. The heavens opened up.
 - iii. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove.
 - iv. And a voice was heard saying that Jesus was the beloved Son (Luke 3:22).
 - v. This was the day Jesus himself received the empowerment of the Spirit which is explicit in Luke 4:1.
 - vi. Just as Jesus was baptized, the word promised that he would baptize us also in the Holy the Spirit and with fire (Luke 3:16).



JESUS'S MINISTRY

- A. The Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness (Luke 4:1).
- B. He overcomes the Devil through the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1-13).
- C. Jesus articulated in his very first message, and laid down a theological premise, of why the baptism of the Spirit is needed—to preach and proclaim the gospel. This is evidenced through freedom for prisoners, recovery of sight to the blind, and setting the captive free (Luke 4:18-19).



SIMEON IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (LUKE 2:24-25)

- A. After the death and resurrection of Christ, in Acts 1:8, Jesus reveals the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13).
 - i. Along with the physical evidence of speaking in tongues (which occurs with the baptism of the Holy Spirit) there is also continuity in Luke's theological premise: empowerment follows an individual that is filled with the Spirit.
 - ii. "...This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.'" (Acts 2:16-17).
 - iii. This is a new dispensation of the Kingdom of God being made known for all believers. Now, not only would Elijah, Moses or the Old Testament prophets be given prophetic utterance, but all believers could be empowered by the Holy Spirit. This empowerment would bring about an effectual gospel proclamation.
- C. Peter's proclamation (Acts 2:14-39).



THE APOSTLES SPREAD THE GOSPEL EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Peter.
 - i. Before Peter preached to the crowd in Jerusalem, he was filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).
 - ii. Peter had cowered at the crucifixion of Christ (Luke 22:54-62)
 - iii. Now, he preached boldly the need for repentance and the truth of the resurrection.
 - iv. This is the New Testament Pattern.



THE APOSTLES SPREAD THE GOSPEL EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

B. Stephen.

i. What was Stephen known for? —powerful speech, and signs and wonders (Acts 6:8) C. Philip

i. Now we see the gospel spreading to other regions around Jerusalem. ii. Philip went to Samaria and proclaimed the gospel empowered to move in signs and wonders. (Acts 8:4-8) D. Paul

i. Paul is converted on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-7)

ii. Paul receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17-19)iii.

Throughout Paul's missionary journeys, we see him proclaim the gospel message empowered by the Holy Spirit with evidence of miraculous signs



THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TODAY AS HIS WITNESS

A. If you are filled with the Spirit, you have everything you need to share the gospel.

B. You are not filled with the Spirit simply to be depression free.

C. You have been empowered to proclaim the gospel to the lost

i. It is not based on your persuasive abilities.

ii. It is not based upon your particular evangelism style iii. The power is in the anointing of the Holy Spirit.