

### ***Foundation, The Holy Spirit and The Spirit-filled Life***

**Intro:** *Have you ever been in a tornado?* I remember one time looking out my back door as a young child and seeing a little tornado way up in the sky over our house. It never got even close to the ground, but what a scene. Tornadoes can obviously be devastating at times. They can also leave behind some amazing pictures. There was pictured in *LIFE* magazine years back, a flimsy straw thrust through the center of a telephone pole, as a result of a Midwest Tornado. *How could something so insubstantial do this? A straw?*

*Answer: These items which have no power of their own were totally empowered by the awesome force of the tornado to penetrate the pole.*

*Is not that us? Frail, fragile, small and weak people. But could something as powerful as this be done through us and in us? Could we be empowered to accomplish the supernatural?*

**Acts 2.1-4** (Tornadoes can do some power, but let's look at some 1<sup>st</sup> century power)

(At the end of chapter 1 the believers gathered in silence and prayer. Obediently, they awaited the promise of the Holy Spirit's coming and the Lord's command for them to do nothing until that event occurred. Apart from the business of selecting Matthias to replace Judas, the believers engaged in no ministry activity, at least none that Luke reports. Now the second chapter bursts upon the scene with both audio and visual effects choreographed by God.)

**Verse 1:** *the day of Pentecost had (was being fulfilled) come* – Pentecost is the word *fiftieth*, because it fell on the fiftieth day after the Sabbath of the Passover. -*The Feast of Weeks (a Jewish festival), the Day of firstfruits* – Jews would bring the firstfruits of their harvest in thanksgiving, expecting that God would give the rest of the harvest as His blessing – this would be a day of firstfruits of Christ's church; AND -The celebration on the first day of the week remembering and celebrating the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai – celebrating the manifestation of God from the mountain to man...this day the manifestation of God from Heaven to earth. *They were all together in one place* – Most likely the apostles (1.26). They were probably in the temple precincts, or some part of the temple, or a house near the temple.

**Verse 2:** *suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind (a blowing, forcible blast) and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.* – Wind. This sound would attract the multitudes to this small gathering (2.5). We will look more at this in a second...

**Verse 3:** *there appeared to them tongues (language) as of fire distributing themselves and they rested on each one of them* – Fire.

So, here you have two manifestations of God:

*The wind, that attracts the crowd and then fire that appears.*

-What we have here is *typology* (it is real not an allegory). Here you have something (wind and fire) used to illustrate a spiritual truth. Typology is not used to establish doctrine itself, but to emphasize and to illustrate doctrine so that one may fully understand.

*Wind* – In John 3.8 Jesus says to Nicodemus, *The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.* Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit and its divine work in spiritual new birth.

Wind is a great way to illustrate the Holy Spirit, its *power, invisibility, and its immaterial nature*. Here in verse 2 it speaks of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit and God's sovereignty in the coming of the Spirit.

*Fire* – This type is used in Scripture in many ways. The most familiar being in Exodus 3.2 when *the Lord appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush*. You also have *God guiding the children of Israel with a pillar of fire by night* (Exodus 13.21, 22). Could you imagine all the OT examples of fire coming back to them in this moment?

The type here in verse 3 refers to the Holy Spirit, the Lord's presence, His approval, His protection, and cleansing and sanctifying (set apart) for the ministry before them.

**Verse 4:** *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit* – This is why Jesus gathered them together in Jerusalem and told them not to leave (Acts 1.4-5) and He told them to *wait for what the Father had promised, saying, Which, you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now*.

-Before we continue let's ask a few questions:

**Who is the Holy Spirit?** Now we could spend quite a while unpacking this, but let's just get acquainted with the third person of the trinity. Scripture tells us that God is triune. It does not use the word trinity, but it vividly shows God as three in one, a great mystery and a great truth. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One God, in three persons. Many of us are unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit and His work. Part of that is our fault as Pastors and teachers. We need to embrace, love and learn more and more about the Holy Spirit. It is missing from much of our teaching and therefore from our churches and from our lives.

**The Holy Spirit:** *Is a person*, not a "thing" or "it" or some abstract force. He is *a divine person*. He is *God*. He is not merely a delegated representative, but God Himself. He knows all, He is everywhere, He is powerful, and He is eternal, He is God. He is Holy, meaning He is set apart from any other spirit in the world. He is perfect. This is absolutely essential to true Christianity.

**Scripture will speak of the Holy Spirit in the following ways:**

**In Creation:** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving (hovering) over the surface of the waters (Genesis 1.1-2)*. Here we have Divine motion, spring of life, bringing life to a dead place. Like an eagle who flutters over her young, to bring warmth, to cherish them, so the Spirit does here.

**As the author of life:** *Job says, The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life (Job 33.4)*.

**He is the power source for the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary:** *The angel answered and said to her (Mary), "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1.35)*.

**He is the power source for the resurrection of Christ from the dead:** *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you (Romans 8.11)*.

**Read John 16.5-15** (Jesus to His disciples): (The Holy Spirit, *the paraclete*) The Helper, Counselor, Advocate, *the one called along side to help or to give aid*, does not come if Jesus does not go away to Heaven. The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and the judgment to come. He also reaches out to the sinner. He is the Spirit of Truth. He guides us into all the truth. He speaks as God and He will speak future things that are to come. He glorifies Jesus and discloses Jesus to us.

**In Relation to People**

-We see in Scripture that the Holy Spirit comes upon people, for example Samson in Judges 14.19, when it says *the Spirit of the LORD came upon him (Samson) mightily*.

-We also see that the Holy Spirit dwelt with people. In John 14.16 Jesus says, *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.* He is by their side and accompanying them.

-But something happened on this day. Something changed. No longer does the Holy Spirit come upon people for special experiences or just dwells with them or near them, now He dwells on the inside.

-Here in Acts 2 we find the Spirit fills all the apostles (Peter, who had denied Christ three times – *you and I have more than that* – now has God living inside Him. This same Holy Spirit that changed Peter is available today to enable you to live a supernatural life, holy and fruitful for Jesus.).

-They are yielded to God and now the promise that Jesus made them before He ascended and left the earth, *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (to supervene, to influence) (Acts 1.8)* now is fulfilled.

-Scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 6.19-20: *or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.* At the moment one becomes a Christian, He yields Himself to the grace of God that calls out to him and by faith accepts the gift of Salvation, the work of Jesus on the cross for himself, the Holy Spirit indwells (2 Corinthians 6.16; John 14.23), regenerates (Titus 3.5-7; John 3.3-5), seals (Ephesians 1.13, 4.30), guarantees, baptizes (1 Corinthians 12.13) and fills the believer. This work by the Holy Spirit results in the believer becoming a member of the Body of Christ and child of God forever.

### **Read Ephesians 5.17-20 (So the Holy Spirit comes and fills them...)**

*And do not get drunk (intoxicated) with wine, for that is dissipation (wastefulness, or like an unsaved person), but be filled (be influenced, satisfied) with the Spirit (v. 18).* A command: Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

**Being drunk** – controlled by alcohol; you do things you don't naturally do; you act in ways you don't naturally act.

**Spirit filled** – under the influence, He dominates your personality, runs the show, calls the shots, He dictates your actions and reactions. It is your obedient response and it involves an act of your will, and we empty ourselves of pride and let the Holy Spirit do what He is going to do. This command is for all.

*It is present tense, it's continuous - we're to keep on being filled* (this is unlike being baptized with the Spirit where that only occurs at salvation). *We are to be filled daily...yielding ourselves to the Holy Spirit.*

(A practical way to look at this is: Jesus says (John 14.26), *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

Then right after this Jesus will say these things: *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (15.7). This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you (15.12).* The Holy Spirit will remind us to remain in the Word of God, He will bring remembrance to us what Jesus says...it is up to us to obey as the Holy Spirit leads daily. As we encounter people we are to love them, we are to obey the Holy Spirit and yield our pride to His will. Then comes fruit and God is glorified!

The church's job is not to replace this filling with programs and organization. We will never be able to do what the Holy Spirit can do when we are obediently filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Where there is no filling, there is no wind and fire from Heaven!*

So, let's drink deep and let the Spirit dominate us! Let's not just sip on Sunday mornings...lets instead get intoxicated with the Spirit daily!

**Look what happens...The Supernatural, only what God can do:**

*-From heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house (v. 2).*

*-There appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of the (v. 3).*

*-They began to speak with other tongues (dialects, languages), as the Spirit was giving them utterance (v. 4).* These are genuine languages being spoken, not gibberish. In fact, the word *dialektos* in verses 6 and 8 can only refer to a language or dialect. They are languages not naturally acquired. 5-12 emphasizes the fact that people of different languages understood the message of the Christians in their own language. (For example I go to Mexico and the pastor is speaking Spanish, but I can understand it as my own language.) What is so supernatural about this is that when the hearers in the crowd this day respond, a miracle of understanding certainly follows...salvation!

*-But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: (vv. 14-36).*

The Holy Spirit comes upon Peter to speak boldly God's Word. The Holy Spirit speaks through Him...gives him the very utterance of God.

*-There were added about three thousand souls (v. 42).* People are saved.

*-Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles (v. 43).* People were being healed, life-change

*-They were continually devoting...and the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved (vv. 42-47).* A community of people, of all different types and backgrounds were doing life together in one accord magnifying Jesus. This is exactly what Paul explains in verses 19-20 of Ephesians 5 after he just said *get drunk on the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*

**A SPIRIT FILLED COMMUNITY! A windy city, a city on fire!**

Without the Spirit you don't have this visible community in verses 42-47...what we find here is the purpose for the Spirit's coming.

*How does 3,000 people come to faith in one day?*

*How does a community like this (Acts 2.42-47) exist?*

*How does a (your) failing marriage survive and thrive?*

*How does a (your) straying child come home?*

*How does the backslider return from his wicked ways?*

*How does one have his life changed?*

*How does one come to know Jesus personally?*

**Answer:** The Holy Spirit – He is the missing link, that we all need, that we need as a church, as a people!