



## Spirit-Filled Witnesses

Message Notes, June 4, 2017

Acts 1:8

As we continue to hear the Lord and respond to His awakening, there is a clear call to look outward. Awakening is never just for our sakes alone; The Holy Spirit's stirring always leads us "into the world" to take His gospel and grace to the lost and broken. Jesus said, "And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

**The Work of the Holy Spirit:** What he brings in our lives, individually and as a people.

1. **PRESENCE.** Holy Spirit is the expression and experience of God's presence in us/with us. John 14:16-18
2. **PURITY.** Holy Spirit cultivates in us the character of Jesus – the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
3. **POWER.** Acts 1:8 is clear that the Holy Spirit brings the power of God into our lives – strength and wisdom; spiritual gifts, many of which manifest in supernatural, miraculous power, and also strongly connected to the spiritual gifts detailed in I Corinthians 13 – the power of love. See John 14:11-14 – How does Jesus describe/explain the power we are meant to have by His Spirit?
4. **PASSION.** Again, Acts 1:8 is clear – the power the Holy Spirit brings is intended to propel us into the world. This verse outlines how this passion for bringing the kingdom into the world, will unfold. Beginning with the day of Pentecost ("when the Holy Spirit comes upon you"), His passion then moves them into Jerusalem, into Judea, even into Samaria (across ethnic lines), and into all the earth. This passion maps out for us as follows: Columbus, the Chattahoochee Valley (esp. crossing racial and economic lines), the U.S., and all over the world.

**Recent expressions of our passion to reach the world:**

1. Our community garden recently harvested 400 pounds of vegetables that will be donated to Valley Rescue Mission.
2. The men's leadership team is discussing ways to expand and deepen our ministry to Carver High School.
3. Keith and other area pastors met week to pray and explore ways to reach our city:
  - Commitment and strategy for churches to pray over our entire city, by neighborhoods.
  - A fresh vision of reaching "every home for Christ."
4. Our Week of Hope serves and supports various ministries throughout the city.
5. We commissioned the official conversion of our Phenix City campus to become a separate Free Methodist congregation called Village Church.
6. We did a similar thing two weeks ago as we sent Jae and Kaci Lesley out to plant a new church in Angel Fire, New Mexico.
7. A mission team of CCC and Village Church members left for Rwanda this weekend.

These are wonderful, passionate expressions of kingdom mission, of the gospel and love of Jesus going forth! But we long to see even more – more passion and especially more power that bears witness to Jesus.



### Passion for the lost is rooted in and fueled by:

1. His loving, intimate **presence**. When we “abide in the Vine,” we get Jesus’ heart “to seek and to save the lost.”
2. The Holy Spirit’s continual **pruning** and **purifying** us, so our actions and attitudes are consistent with our words. Our passion to share the gospel is greatly undermined if we are not living the message we proclaim. Hypocrisy is a huge obstacle to our witness.
3. His **power**, which strengthens us to be salt and light in the world. His power fuels our faith and gives us courage. His power demonstrates the reality of our mighty God and bears witness to the Lordship of Jesus. His power reveals that our faith is more than a set of principles or theological ideas; it is a tangible, dynamic, transforming relationship. Throughout Acts, conversions to faith in Jesus always followed powerful, miraculous acts.

### How Do We Respond to this Work of the Holy Spirit?

1. **CONFESS**:
  - That we have settled for experiencing/enjoying our faith with little passion for sharing it in the world ... or
  - That we have had passion for sharing Jesus with others, but we have relied on our own resourcefulness (strategies, programs, tools) – things *we* can do, rather than relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to do things we cannot do, i.e., supernatural, miraculous things.
2. **CULTIVATE** an expectation that God wants and will move in power through us by His Spirit (in the same ways He did in the early church).
3. **PROCLAIM**, with joyful enthusiasm and bold courage, God’s power to save and make lives whole!

Passionate witness is the greatest evidence of true awakening in God’s people. May this be true of us.

### Reflection Questions

1. Do you struggle to fully embrace the idea that God has called you to be a witness to His gospel and kingdom *right where you live* each day? What are the obstacles in your mind or heart that choke this calling?
2. Have you ever asked Holy Spirit to fill you with His power – boldness, insight, miraculous acts – that will infuse your witness of Him? What fears or other feelings impede asking for such power?
3. WHO in your sphere of influence can you begin to specifically pray for – that Holy Spirit would lead and empower you to bear witness to them of His gospel, love, and goodness?