

Come Holy Spirit

I was reading some interesting facts about a hurricane the other day that I want to share with you. A hurricane lifts 60 million or more tons of ocean water and generates more power in 10 seconds than all the electrical power used in the United States in one year. What a tremendous force of energy and power demonstrated just in a hurricane. You know the reality is, energy and power will be something that we always need; we will need it for our homes, will need it for cars and we need it within our culture. Among the great inventions of all time, electricity and fuel to use for our cars, just amazing things that all of us use and enjoy.

You know the other reality is people need personal energy as well, in order to empower their lives. We need real power to fulfill our destiny in the light of Jesus Christ that he calls us to, rather than to walk in deeds of darkness. We need his power to fulfill the resolutions to the personal challenges that we face whether they are in our relationships, our health, financial, maybe the future that we were concerned about, or the present moment in which we live. One of the things I want to celebrate with you today is the reality that the Holy Spirit can be present to us in our daily lives. Not just someone that we talk about here especially on this Pentecost Sunday but a presence, a force, the most powerful force in the whole universe that is literally at the disposal of the believer to bring them all into what God has for them.

In Romans 8:26 we read, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." You know that very short verse in Romans speaks to these realities, first of all that the Holy Spirit is God, and part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to empower the people of God, that's what the Holy Spirit is meant to do. It also speaks about the reality in this verse of the Holy Spirit as an intercessor. I don't know if you knew this or not but the Holy Spirit offers the best prayers in the entire universe. One of the reasons why the Holy Spirit is the best is that the Holy Spirit knows the mind of God. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what God wants for your life, of the lives of the people around you, for the world, not only in the present moment but in the future as well. So as you and I are in fellowship of the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to intercede through us and move in our lives, we are praying perfectly according to the will of God. Just so you know this as well, Jesus prayed that way and every one of his prayers were answered. That's why he said in the gospel today, "Whatever you ask of me I will do it for you". In this context, we are talking about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is light. As you and I are in the presence of the Holy Spirit, one of the things that you'll notice is the Holy Spirit will constantly be leading you to the light. Now the only down part about this is that also the Holy Spirit is constantly revealing your darkness and your sin and that can be kind of discouraging over time. But there's a grace in that. There's a mercy in that. There's a consolation in that, in that you and I are growing more and more into the light.

Finally, the Holy Spirit is a counselor. The Holy Spirit can come alongside you and me and if you and I will only listen to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit can actually counsel us about what to do. He can actually help us in our decisions to know about what the best next step will be, especially in the mist of our weaknesses, in our trials, in our struggles. The Holy Spirit is a wonderful counselor. And get this; the Holy Spirit, as you are opening yourself up to the Spirit's presence and intercession and the will of God, can actually begin to open up doors that you never could have; can begin to open up doors in people's hearts and in situations and in the reality of life that you might come to a different outcome than you would've come to on your own. That is because of supernatural influence. Know this, because the Holy Spirit is supernatural and spiritual, and omnipresent and omniscient, he has better connections than you and I do. He can open up doors and things that you and I don't even know exist. He can provide a way where all we see is a closed-door. He can make the possible in the midst of what is seemingly and humanly impossible. The Holy Spirit is God's empowering presence in the Temple of you. You don't know what to pray for or what to do... wonderful. It's another opportunity for you and me to press more into the Holy Spirit and asked for the Holy Spirit's grace and power in that moment and to listen and to have the grace to actually follow what God is leading us to do. Whether it's in his word or supernaturally through his Holy Spirit or through the events of life as they're unfolding. Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.

You know beloved, this is the most important time for you and I to press into God. During those moments of weakness, during those moments of struggle, during those moments of need where we say to ourselves, "I can do this. I can handle it. I'm going to pull up my own bootstraps and I'm going to see this through." Don't do that. Don't do that especially after you've already tried three or four times and it's not working out. That is a clue. In case you didn't get it yet, I'll help you out. That is a clue that you can't do it, that you are blowing it, that you are going to continue to blow it. Be honest and say, "You know what? I can't handle this. I need your help Holy Spirit."

That is why Jesus said to the disciples, "Don't do anything. Don't even leave this room until you receive the power of the Holy Spirit." As I've seen people at death's door, families are breaking apart and struggling, don't know where their next penny is coming from. In the midst of the situations, we have cried out to God together through tears and heartbreak and groaned before God saying, "Holy Spirit we need your help. We need a breakthrough here. We need a miracle because if you don't, we are lost here; we are destroyed. It's over. Our ship is sinking." And I can share with you, as recently as a couple of days ago praying with somebody, got some really rough news in the hospital; shared some stuff with me and we began to pray together. This person began to confess their sins to the Lord and they began to cry. We both felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. There was an energy, a heat that came over him. He and I were touched, different people from when we began that prayer to when we ended it because of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit transformed us.

Surrender to the Holy Spirit today! You can't wait any longer. You and I need his power and his presence in our lives not only for ourselves, but the lives of people who are around us. Welcome him, listen to him, seek out his help!

On that first Pentecost day, the disciples needed to wait actually 50 days to receive the Holy Spirit; that's what Pentecost means - it means 50. That's a long time to wait. The reason why Jesus wanted them to wait is that they needed to receive the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Another reason why Jesus wanted them to wait, I believe, is that Jesus was testing them. He wanted to see if they would actually listen to his directions before they would receive this power of the Holy Spirit to go out into the fullness of ministry they God had for them. So if God has you in a place of waiting or struggle or weakness right now, it's because he wants to see if you're actually going to listen to him now, that he might entrust with you even more power.

So they waited, and thank God that they did. That day came when the Holy Spirit came upon them. As you read the story in Acts today, it says they were filled with the Holy Spirit. That word 'filled' in the Greek means to occupy fully, to put in as much as possible. Have you ever seen one of those pictures of how many people you can stuff in a Volkswagen Beetle or something like that, right? That's how this was. They were filled to the rim. Every nook and cranny was filled with the Holy Spirit. Also, there were tongues of fire that were above them. Again, this was a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This was a symbol to everybody there that something supernatural was happening. The Spirit of God was moving upon them. And then tongues of fire came upon each one of them. Again, this was a sign that the Holy Spirit wasn't just for certain people, but the Holy Spirit was for each individual person. The Holy Spirit is present upon each one of your lives. The question is, are you open to that Spirit's presence in you? Are you open to that tongue of fire? The fire of God that purifies, that brings you and I to the holiness of God and into the power of God.

It was a symbol of tongues as well. This was a divine impartation to proclaim the gospel in a powerful way such that conversions would result. The Holy Spirit was to be the burning power of the tongue upon the life of every believer God has met ever since that first Pentecost, that every believer would be anointed with the Holy Spirit. God has meant it that way. God has desired that every one of his children would be filled with power and that their tongue would be anointed with grace and love and mercy, such that when you and I open up our mouths, there is that power of God coming from you, touching people's lives, bringing the spirit of God in, bringing heaven into earth, bringing light into darkness. That's what God desires. An anointed message that touches people's lives. Again, you'll read later on in the weeks to come about Peter..

Peter stood before a crowd of thousands and he preached with such fervor and such anointing. And the Holy Spirit was coming through his tongue moving 3000 to be baptized that day. It was just the beginning of a tsunami of the Holy Spirit in a very powerful and wonderful way. How awesome is that? And you see, that's what God wants to do. He wants to do that through you and me right now. The reality is, as much as darkness is rising in this moment, and make no mistake, it is rising; there have been gates of hell that been opened up. With what Isis is doing and the murderous rampage that is happening throughout this world; it is darkness. It is evil. It is from the pit of hell. But I want to tell you something... rise up church. Rise up in the spirit of God. God is not afraid of them. He's given the church the presence of the Holy Spirit and he saying through me to you and all the church, "Wake up!" The reason why you don't have as much conviction as Isis does. The reason why you and I aren't willing to lay our lives down on the battlefield of life like they are is because we were not walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. We need that fire. We need that light. We need that burning in our heart such that through the power of God we were able to stand up and proclaim the gospel, come what may. Those red shirts you're wearing... they are a symbol of what should be happening in the hearts of each one of us. Hearts that are aflame and on fire with God, filled with the Holy Spirit and his power.

God is in the process of making things perfectly clear for everybody about the choice you have and that includes believers. I say to you here today on this Pentecost Sunday, choose all that God has for you. Be open fully and completely to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. God wants and God is getting a Holy Spirit empowered church. You worry about the wrong things. You worry about, what will they think if I speak in tongues? What are they going to think if I raise my hands? Am I going to become one of those weird people I always pointed fingers at? Well let me ask you this...what is your life going to look like when you finally surrender to the power of God in your heart once and for all? What's that going to look like? That's going to look pretty awesome. Britney Manning shares, "Sitting at the right hand of God, the Lord Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit to form the holy people of God. A community of prophets surrender to the mystery of the fire of the spirit that burns within, who would live in ever greater fidelity to the shattering omnipresent word, who would enter into the center of all that is, into the very heart and mystery of God into the center of that plane that consumes and purifies and sets all aglow with peace, joy, boldness and extravagant love, which is what it means to claim the name Christian follower of Jesus

Beloved of God, I have a simple conclusion to this message and I want to invite you along with me into this prayer. It is a prayer that I pray almost every moment of my of my day literally. It is simply this, "Come Holy Spirit. I need you as I walk in my neighborhood right now. Come Holy Spirit as I'm with my brother or sister in this hospital room and they've gotten bad news. Come Holy Spirit as I'm up in the middle of the night and I'm concerned about what's going on with this person or that person or our world, lead me in my prayer; help me in my weakness; groan within me with words that are too deep to be spoken. Pray through me, cry through me. May the will of God be birthed through me and through the people of God. Come Holy Spirit."

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