

Introduction:

- I want to talk about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is so intimately involved in the birth and establishment of the early church that we cannot overlook His importance to the church today.
 - If the Holy Spirit was needed to birth the church, He is also needed to advance the church.
 - **The church that is apostolic in nature has a very unique relationship with the Holy Spirit. And this unique relationship is to be an ordinary way of life for believers. We become 'anointed trouble makers' right at the very gates of hell!**
- *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses..."* (Acts 1:8, ESV) Do you remember Michael Thompson saying to us that it would be illegal for us to come into this sanctuary and not expect this to be the day revival breaks out.
- *"And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.' And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women." And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,"* (Acts 17:2-4, 6 ESV) What a fun description of ones Christian faith!
- Starting Acts 16, Paul and Silas are tearing it up. And in chapter 17, Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, Berea, Athens (a place full of idols). In just a few weeks he and Silas have advance the Kingdom of God in great measure.

I. The Holy Spirit and Jesus

- A. I want us to see the Holy Spirits involvement with all that God does. *"In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade."* 2 Cor 2:14 (Message Bible) He leads us in triumph. This is the way God leads...in triumph. There is no other way that God can lead us! How many want to know the Holy Spirit?
 - i. In Genesis 1, He hovered over the darkness of the deep waters. When the Word was given the Holy Spirit released the power of God and things came into being as the Father spoke the word. KaBoom! Light!
 - ii. The Spirit rested upon Joseph as a receiver of a dream to becoming the architect of the plan to save Egypt, after interpreting Pharaohs dream. (Gen 41:38).
 - iii. In the Book of Judges we see the Holy Spirit upon all the judges that freed/delivered Israel from her enemies. Othniel-Judges 3:10; Gideon-Judges 6:34; Samson-Judges 13:24.
 - iv. The Holy Spirit always is involved in creating and in delivering. Two marks of apostolic benefits to the church...creativity and deliverance!
- B. I want us to see the Holy Spirit's involvement with the ministry of Jesus.

- i. Is 61:1-ff **The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me**, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. **He has sent me** to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. ² **He has sent me** to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come... NLT
 - ii. Lk 3:21-22 Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² **And the Holy Spirit descended** in bodily form like a dove **upon Him**. NLT
 - iii. Acts 10:38 **And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.** NLT
- C. The Holy Spirit is very apostolic!
- i. They Holy Spirit has been sent. (Jn 14:26; 16:7,8; Acts 2:4; Gal 4:6)
 - 1. Jn 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 things.** NLT
 - 2. Gal 4:6 **And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts...**NLT
 - 3. Jesus spoke of both He and the Father sending the Holy Spirit to empower, help, guide and comfort his people. He has been sent from heaven and He too has a mission!!!
 - ii. The Holy Spirit sends.
 - 1. As we have already seen, He sent Jesus Is 48:16, a messianic word: "**And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.**" NLT
 - 2. He sends messengers who carry the message. 1 Peter 1:12.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is sent and he himself sends.
 - iii. The Holy Spirit initiated the very topic of our study apostolic grace/apostolic activity.
 - 1. On the day of Pentecost, Acts 2, apostolic grace was activated in the lives of those in the upper room and POW! The church was born with power and 3000k were saved the first day. KaBoom - they were sent! They instantly began to carry a mission in their heart.
 - 2. Previously ordinary men and women, were suddenly transformed into an apostolic company because the "Sent Holy Spirit" was completing His mission!!!
 - iv. The Holy Spirit is apostolic because He is part of the Trinity
 - 1. Jesus is the Great Apostle Heb 3:1.
 - 2. Jesus sent the 12, and 70 to preach and to heal
 - 3. The Father reflected the apostolic spirit when He sent His Son into the world.
 - 4. The Father hears our prayers and send workers to reap the harvest.
 - 5. All of heaven is caught up in the activity!

II. The Holy Spirit and the 120

- A. Acts 1:5 **You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit!** This is what Jesus tells those who are gathered on the mountain before He left. You need to be immersed in the Spirit!

- i. John baptized (He immersed) you in water but I will baptize (immerse) you with the Holy Spirit. Baptize speaks of being so immersed that like a cucumber being pickled. It goes all the way through you.
- ii. Think about this now. Jesus is saying I want to put the One who was 'sent' inside of you.
 - 1. God on my inside! Pickle me Jesus! Creator of the universe living on my inside!
 - 2. Not only is it God on my inside but it is the One who himself has been sent to those who believe! He is on a mission!! Do you think the Holy Spirit is going to return a failure! No Way! God does not report back to God and say, "Sorry, couldn't do it."
- iii. When God, the sent One with a mission, gets on the inside of a believer...Look out! No wonder people shake under the power of the Holy Spirit! When the One with the mission assignment arrives on the inside of a believer, that believer cannot help but be sent! He cannot help but be an ambassador! He cannot help but be a warrior sent to uproot, tear down and destroy systems of darkness and establish the Kingdom of God!!!
 - 1. Paul in Acts 16 & 17. He was turning the world up side down!
 - 2. In 16:20 the word is 'to throw into trouble.' Stir up trouble.
 - 3. In 17:6 the word is to upset or to turn over.
 - 4. In 17:13 the word is 'to shake' to stir up against.

5. What we see in 16 and 17 IS A MOVE OF GOD! AND A RIOT AT THE SAME TIME!

- B. Ezk. 47:8 Water that flows from the throne of God.
 - i. Vs 8 When it reaches the salt sea its waters are healed.
 - ii. Vs 9 Everything that the water touches lives.
 - iii. Everywhere the water goes lives.
 - iv. Fishermen will stand along side the river and fish!!! Where ever the water flows souls will be saved! 3000 were saved on the first day in Acts 2.
 - v. Jn 7:38 *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*" ³⁹ *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;* NLT
- C. Ezk 37:9 Ezekiel prophesies to the 'ruach' the breath, the wind, the Holy Spirit and the breath enters the lifeless bodies before Ezekiel and they lived! They stood! A mighty army of God!
 - i. When God raises up an army it is for the purpose of dominion! God is on a mission! He has sent His Spirit on a mission and we are sent on a mission-that not one would perish! 2 Peter 3:9.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit may cause a rattling at first but know that when the breath enters a dead man he is alive!

- D. Apostolic grace brings benefits to the church that the church must have to be powerful in the earth. It was given to perfect and to equip the saints according to Eph 4.
 - i. When the Holy Spirit came in they became witnesses! They just didn't go out to witness—they literally became the witness. You could see Jesus in their lives, the way they lived their lives and for whom they lived their lives. They loved their lives not unto death.
 - ii. When you are filled with the One sent with a mission, your life is all about the mission! That is what makes ordinary Christians apostolic. What are you living for? Yes, I know you have a job and a family but what is the mission? Wreck the darkness in your sphere of influence, establish and build the Kingdom of God...one life at a time if you have to!

III. The Holy Spirit and You

- A. The Holy Spirit was not just given to the early church in the book of Acts. He was given to anyone who would believe to receive Him.
 - i. Invaders of darkness. Plundering hell to populate heaven! Spiritual warfare through prayer and witness.
 - ii. We are the sent ones meaning we have mission to accomplish given to us by God.
 - iii. We go as ambassadors of the Most High God.
 - iv. Our message, power and strength comes from the Holy Spirit.
 - v. This is a picture of the early church. It is also a picture of the church today that goes in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- B. You were not made for the safety of the 'upper room', you were saved for adventure!
 - i. You are an Acts 1:8 moment: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses...*NLT This was an Apostolic Jesus speaking to an apostolic church (about to be born) who would do apostolic wonders all over the earth.
 - ii. You represent another Kingdom now! Your life is not your own.
- C. How do I receive the Holy Spirit?
 - i. By faith Jn 7:38 He who believe out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (Holy Spirit)
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is a person. You are not receiving water, wind, or oil. Those are symbols used to speak of Him.

Conclusion:

- The church that is apostolic in nature has a very unique relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus want us to be ordinary, anointed people that stir up trouble for the devil.
 - From place to place in one perpetual victory parade! 2 Cor 2:14 Message Bible
 - He leads us in triumph! There is no other way for God to lead us!