

150524 No Limits! Acts 1:4, 7, 8; 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

How many of you like getting gifts?

How many of you have stood in lines on Black Friday to get the best deal on a gift that you wanted? How many have waited at an event or in a line to receive a free gift? We all like free gifts and will read the instructions and fill out the paper work to get the free gift that is being offered. Often times just because it is free. We like to get free gifts.

What about getting a gift that will transform the way you do life? A gift that will take the limits off how you are doing/living life and open up doors to amazing things. And this gift is free! This gift has no limits! This gift will make you powerful! It can bring Heaven to earth. It can revolutionize the way you do life.

Let's turn to Acts chapter 1: 1-14 - while I set the stage for you.

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven **he gave instructions to His disciples to wait for the gift**. He told them NOT to leave Jerusalem until they received the gift His Father had promised (vs4). Jesus knew that they needed this gift that would transform the way they did life and would impact nations. This gift was critical for the early church as it is for us today. He knew that this gift would empower them live a life that breaks the limits of normal and opens them up to a realm of possibilities. It will allow them to encounter the amazing and miraculous realms of bringing Heaven to Earth. And this gift is free! This gift has no limits! This gift will give you power to create change in the earth while advancing His Kingdom.

I. THE PROMISED GIFT IS GIVEN.

- A. The Gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift that the Father promised to give. It is a free gift.
 1. Jesus himself instructed the disciples to wait for the gift that was promised by His Father, God.
 - a) The disciples had heard Jesus tell them before about this gift that will be given. Luke 24:48-49 “**You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city (of Jerusalem) until you have been clothed with power from on high.**”
- B. **A Promise:** (Webster 1828 Dictionary)
 1. A binding declaration of something to be done or given for another's benefit;
 2. In Scripture, the *promise* of God is the declaration or assurance which God has given in his word of bestowing blessings on his people. Such assurance resting on the perfect justice, power, benevolence and immutable veracity of God, cannot fail of performance.
 - a) “**The Lord is not slack (slow)in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**” **2 Peter 3:9**
- C. **A Gift:** A present; anything given or bestowed; the property of which is voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation; It is freely given.
 1. Jesus told his disciples that God had a free gift to give them.
 2. I love promises and more so promised gifts. At times it is hard to wait for it.
- D. There was instructions given to wait.
 1. The disciples believed what Jesus said. So they waited.
 - a) I know some of you are not very good at waiting but have been known to wait to receive a gift much less important than God's Holy Spirit for longer than the

- disciples had to wait. If you understand the value of earthly gifts, how much more you would want a gift from God given to you.
2. On the 10th day, at 9 am in the morning, while they were drinking their coffee/tea and sitting in the living room praying and waiting. The suddenly happened! Read Acts 2:2-4
 3. The promise that was spoke of was given. The Gift of God was released to all.
 4. Acts 1: 8 **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**
 5. **This gift released power that created change in the earth. It stirred courage, a boldness within, to be a witness of the goodness of God and His love. It compelled those who received it to want to tell of what they had seen, heard, and experienced. They could not stay silent.**

The Gift of Promise has been given just as Jesus has promised. Anyone who wants this free gift can have it.

II. NO LIMITS TO RECEIVING.

- A. ALL who were present received the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Everyone in the upper room received the Gift. About 120 in all. * Read Acts 2:4-12
 - a) NO LIMITS to the age of the person, the gender, height or weight, medical history limitations, or social position/status. It did not matter if you were an apostle, a previous prostitute, business women, a tax collector, doctor, a mechanic, or stay at home Mom.
 - b) **ALL that were in the upper room** received the free gift of love given from the Father.
 - c) Over 3000 who listened to Peter’s address following the filling of the Holy Spirit received salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 39
 2. There were NO LIMITS to who could receive the gift. The Gentiles received this Gift.
 - a) In Acts 10 - Peter is at Cornelius’ House: the Gentiles received the promised gift from the Father, the gift of the Holy Spirit. vs 34 -”**I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.**” vs - 44 **“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.”** They received the HS by just hearing the message.
 - b) Those circumcised (Jews) who were present were amazed that they heard the Gentiles speaking in tongues and praising God! Acts 10:46
 3. The promised gift wasn’t limited to just the 12 apostles, or the 70 disciples sent out, but is available to ALL! It is NOT LIMITED! It is for you and me!

Illustration: My Gift Came “Special Delivery”

When I was 17 years old, I had been praying to the Lord for all that He had for my life and I had been asking for everything He had for me as a believer. I distinctly remember telling Him I wanted His power to be a bold witness for Him. A short time later, while driving in my car and worshipping the Lord, I began to sing in the Spirit, according to I Corinthians 14: 15. I had never sang in the Spirit before but It felt right in my Spirit and it felt right to my body. So I

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continued to sing and worship. The words did not make sense to my mind, but they build up my Spirit man. God heard my prayer and gave me the gift of Holy Spirit. What He has done for me, He will do for you. He is no respecter of persons. He wants to give us His Holy Spirit. Then we in turn, can share it with others.

Mt. 10:8 “**Freely you have received, freely give.**”

Acts 2:38 Peter is speaking to the multitude, “**Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”

There are **No Limits/No limitations** to who can receive this gift!

We don't have to wait like the disciples did for the gift, the Holy Spirit has already been given. And there are NO LIMITS to who can receive this gift of power and begin a life that is power-packed.

III. POWER-PACKED PEOPLE

- A. There is NO LIMITS to the power that is given to believers who receive the HS.
- B. Acts 2:2 NIV “**And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**”
Heaven invaded earth! ALL of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was enabling them to speak in other languages, to release miracles, signs and wonders that caused others to believe.
- C. Acts 2: 5-7 The crowd heard the sound in the city and came together in bewilderment, because each heard them speaking in his own language. They were utterly amazed. Verse 12, They heard them declaring the wonders of God!
 1. People were drawn to the believers who were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were drawn to the truth of their message and the power that they walked in. They want to know about the Holy Spirit and experience Him in their lives.
- D. All through the book of Acts and the New Testament there is evidence of power flowing in the lives of those who received this gift of Holy Spirit. God's power working in the lives of His people and revealing God's glory where ever they went.
 1. The cripple beggars walked, the shadow of Peter healed the sick...he had so much of God's presence that just walking by the sick, they were healed; many were added to the Kingdom of God as a result of the power that the believers demonstrated - Acts 5:14-16. An angel came and took him out of prison so Herod could not kill him - Acts 12: 7-11
 2. Phillip taught the Ethiopian man about the book of Isaiah while in his chariot -(Acts 8: 30 - 39) and then was translated to another place. Phillip did miraculous signs - evil spirits were cast out, paralytics and cripples healed, and many signs and wonders. Stephen did great signs and wonders among the people and preached the salvation message - Acts 6:8.
 3. Silas and Timothy continued the work of the gospel in Berea - Acts 17:4. Eutychus was raised from the dead by Paul - Acts 20:7-12. Paul had a radical conversion and encounter with the Holy Spirit and the course of his life dramatically changed.
- E. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives we will experience His power and will be changed. Sudden changes, sudden accelerations, sudden surprises,

blessings and more!

1. Those in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost, experienced the OT scripture in Joel 2:28 **“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. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth, below...”**
2. There are no limits to what God can do in and through our lives when we have His Holy Spirit. We are called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. This is our job description. Acts 1:8 **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

Acts 1:8 emphasizes two things we need to know:

- 1) The Holy Spirit empowers disciples, and
- 2) Spirit-filled disciples witness about Jesus around the world. The Holy Spirit changes the hearts of men. He knows men’s hearts. He restores families, He pulls people out of destruction.

Power-Packed People Today

God uses people like us to convince other people like us to believe in him. We are God’s witnesses—his evidence if you will—to convince an unbelieving world.

A. My Personal Testimonies: **People Who Impacted My Life:** Gary & Nena Stewart - my youth pastor’s; Carma Given - my Spiritual Mom; Clare Huck, Jill Austin, Fushia Pickett, Patti Culton, Joyce Deleeuw, and Gene Threadgill. Personal Healing - Signs and Wonders: The Elder’s of my church prayed and I was able to have children; Skin Pigmentation Disease Healed; Shrimp Allergy - tongue swelled, had difficulty swallowing, healed; Eyes healed at age 22; Congenital Kidney disease - healed.

Healings Prayed For: Hip & Shoulder injuries - Pain gone; Legs grown out; Uterine & Breast Cancer’s Cured; Joint Pains - arthritis; Depression/Oppression Broken off; Words of Knowledge; Words of Wisdom to help save relationships & salvations.

B. There are so many people that are impacting the earth today, right here and right now. People who are common and ordinary by most standards but are supernatural in their faith and walk with Holy Spirit. I will only have time to name a few. [Please do not get offended if I do not share your story, as so many of you are impacting your sphere of influence mightily and I charge you to continue to bring Heaven to Earth where ever you go!]

1. Linda Doctor - Is always telling others about Jesus. She gives herself to be a witness for the Lord. She is always found praying for the sick, the weak, and the weary. She is living out her faith in her every day life. Many are saved and rededicate their lives to the Lord. Others are healed and delivered.
2. Rayanna Reyes, 15 year old. She witnesses at school even though she is persecuted by her peers. She is bold and takes a stand for those who are unlovely and down and out. She lives a radical life of faith and gives herself to the place of prayer and worship, much like Mary in the Bible. A true lover of God. She is loyal to Him no matter what the cost.

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3. Jennifer Saglimbeni - prayed for her son Jeremy, healed of familial mediterranean periodic fever. She commanded the fever to leave and it did.
4. The Outreach Teams at FCC: They are filled with the Spirit and are led by the Spirit as they go out to share their faith with the lost of our community. Many are saved and healed. A football player with a cast on, his broken bone healed. Migraines, depression, etc, - all healed. Many others encouraged through the accurate leading of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. They experience Heaven invading Earth as they go out.
5. Not all of you will reach the lost by going out with the Outreach Teams. But you can be filled with His Spirit and receive power to be a witness in your area of influence. The Holy Spirit is available for you!

John 14:12 says “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” And He will give us the promised gift, His Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:39 “The promise (His Holy Spirit) is for you and your children and for ALL who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

He is calling you today to receive the gift of promise.

CLOSING: Do you want to live a life of that has unlimited possibilities? A life filled with power and impact?

- Today is your day to receive this free gift of love from our Father, God.
 - This gift that God has given is for **all who want it**. There are **no limits** placed on receiving this gift ... you accept it by faith (believe it is for you to receive).
 - When you receive it, God’s Holy Spirit will fill you with His power. Just like the disciples, you will begin to live a supernatural filled life with purpose and fruitfulness. You will have boldness/courage to share God with others.
 - There are **no limits** to what you will be able to do as you partner with God.
- Do you want the power of His Holy Spirit that will transform the way you do life?
- Will you take off the limits you have placed on God and on yourself and receive His free gift that is given?
- Matthew 11:12 “From the days of John the baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing and forceful men lay hold of it.”
- The kingdom of heaven is for the desperate and desperate men take hold of it!

Three Separate Calls For Ministry:

1. **For Salvation and The Baptism of the Holy Spirit: You do not have a relationship with God and want one with him. You also want this promised gift of Holy Spirit.**
2. **For Those who have never received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**
 - a. According to God’s word the laying on of hands is used to impart the Holy Spirit Himself.
 - b. Acts 19:6 “When Paul place his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Acts 8:18 “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of apostle’s hands, he offered them money.”

3. For those who want this gift stirred up. You have placed limits on yourself and on God and want to break off the limits you have allowed.

- a. Laying on of hands is used to impart and stir up the Spirit’s giftings:
- b. 2 Timothy 1:6 “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of hands.”
- c. I Timothy 4:14 “Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.”