

It is the pride of man that causes a man to underestimate his need for a savior. It is also the pride of man that causes a believer in Christ to underestimate his need for the Holy Spirit.

During the month of March, as we pray and prepare for mission month, I want us to see how the Lord has equipped us to reach the lost in the same way that he reached his lost disciples. I want us to see how He then equipped them with the Holy Spirit to reach the lost.

After his disciples believed in the atonement and his resurrection, Jesus told them....

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

KJV

The word power is the word dunamis from which we get our word dynamite. dunamis (doo'-nam-is); force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself):

KJV - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

Dunamis is the Divine Power that God provides for every believer to fulfill His plans for our life. The Lord never calls us to do anything without providing the dunamis for us to do it.

- Dunamis is not a feeling. It can produce a feeling.
- Dunamis is not a particular spiritual gift. It can produce spiritual gifts.
- Dunamis is not a particular answer to prayer. Dunamis can produce answers to prayer.

The Apostles also called Dunamis is the Grace of God.

Luke 2:40

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

KJV

Acts 4:33

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

KJV

Our word grace is the Greek word charis.

Grace is God's divine influence upon our hearts.

- Grace is not joy. It will produce joy.

- **Grace is not gratitude.** It will produce gratitude.
- **Grace is not kindness.** It will produce kindness. It is the grace of God that produces all the fruit of the spirit in our life and character.

Grace is what enables us to do the will of God and fulfill His plan for our life.

At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out and the disciples of Jesus received the Holy Spirit, they received this divine influence into their hearts. They received dunamis or charis. They receive power or the grace of God.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with God's divine influence in your heart.

Receiving the Holy Spirit and His power and grace was critical for these first disciples to fulfill His plan for reaching the lost.

Is there one time the disciples of Jesus demonstrated compassion for the lost in our gospel records? Is there one story that demonstrates their heart for the lost was any different than the Pharisees?

You would think there would be at least one story of a disciple of Jesus being commended by Jesus for showing compassion for the lost.

There is the story of the disciples arguing over who is the greatest. There is the story of the disciple's lack of compassion for small children. There is the story of their amazement when Jesus was found talking with the Samaritan woman at the well. There is the story of Jesus sending his disciples on a mission only for them to return and rejoice that even the demons were subject to them. There is the story of their disgust and degradation for the actions of a woman who anointed Jesus for burial. There is the story of their betrayal and denial of Jesus when he was arrested. I have not been able to find one story of how they showed compassion for anyone including Jesus. You would think that after all that he had told them, they would have been wide awake in Gethsemane. You would think that being within ear shot of Jesus their compassion for Him and for the agony he was obviously experiencing would have kept them awake.

These disciples were not equipped to reach the lost even though they were very well acquainted with the teachings of Jesus and the gospel.

They did not have a heart for the lost. After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven, these disciples huddle together for ten days. The day of Pentecost comes 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes upon them and it sounds like a mighty rushing wind that fills the room. There appears upon each one of separate tongues of fire.

According to Acts chapter two, there is an immediate and sudden impact on the disposition of these men.

They have a heart for the lost!

The Lord uses a miraculous sign to draw a crowd and Peter preaches the gospel. 3000 people are saved.

This begins a revival in Jerusalem that leads to a mission movement that eventually spreads throughout the known world.

The rest of Acts reveals a personal history of those disciples that had the Lord's heart for the lost and how they were used by the Lord. Some call the book of Acts...

"The Acts Of The Apostles."

On more than one occasion, it is recorded that there were more experiences like the first one with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:31

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

KJV

Eph 5:18

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

KJV

These experiences were not always accompanied by a miraculous sign but these experiences reveal that even though the Holy Spirit dwelt in each believer, the disciples had a need for spiritual renewal that came from being filled again with the Holy Spirit. Each time they were filled, their love for the lost was renewed. They did not turn inward; they turned outward.

Now, we cannot say that every revival will be exactly the same as what happened in Jerusalem in Acts 2. But there has never been a genuine revival like this one in which many souls were saved that was not preceded by a love for the lost among the disciples of Jesus.

In the revival in islands of the Hebrides from 1949-1952 there lived two elderly women, Peggy and Christine Smith. They were eighty-four and eighty-two years old. Peggy was blind and her sister almost bent double with arthritis. Unable to attend public worship, their humble cottage became a sanctuary where they met with God. These ladies were overcome by the Holy Spirit with concern for the spiritual condition of young people in their parish. To them came the promise: "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground," they pleaded this day and night in prayer. One night Peggy had a revelation, revival was coming and the church of her fathers would be crowded again with young people! The burden of these two women spread to the elders and

deacons of the local congregations and they gathered for prayer. The rest of the story is how God answered their prayer for the young people of their islands.

The **Welsh Revival (1904–1905)** was the largest full-scale Christian Revival of Wales of the 20th century. What happened to the first disciples of Jesus and to the two elderly women in the Hebrides, happened to a young minister named Evan Roberts. He was overcome by a love for the lost and his passion spread from church to church and city to city as he proclaimed the gospel.

Now there have been many movements that have been called revival and have been compared to Pentecost, but if there is one mark of a genuine revival it is the change that happened in the hearts of those first disciples for those who are lost.

We have seen the role of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in this change of heart for it is only by the divine influence of the Holy Spirit that such a change can occur. This is the grace that we need without measure. If we have never known this grace than we should consider ourselves just as lost as the worse sinner or as the disciples of Jesus prior to Pentecost.

Paul said....

Rom 8:9

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

KJV

If any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. I have met many fine men in the church in this condition. These were even men who excelled in good works and were kind. They loved their families and saw that they were cared for. They worked hard and were generous. There have even been men who were zealous for the law of God like Paul. There were even some who were ministers or a leader in their church. But they were lost. They could not give testimony to a moment in time when they were changed and had compassion for the lost.

The Holy Spirit gives this power and this grace to those who have received Him just as He did for those first disciples.

Rom 8:16

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

KJV

It is the sign that we have received the Holy Spirit.

If you do not have this sign, you are lost. Don't be deceived. You need to receive the Holy Spirit today. Don't try to figure out right now how you have not been saved even though you have prayed many times or walked an aisle or been baptized. Just believe the truth that if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Tell God you have

been deceived and plead for His Holy Spirit to come into you. Tell the Lord Jesus you want more than just forgiveness of sins. Tell Him you want His Holy Spirit and His divine influence to control your heart and life from within you. Don't withhold anything. Surrender all.

If you know you have received the Holy Spirit because you have seen the sign of His divine influence in your heart. You can recall at least one moment in time when your heart was deeply moved for the lost, what do you need from the Lord now?

Without question, just like those first disciples we all need to be filled again like those first disciples. Now, I do not know of any great secret to this renewal other than one.

[I have never heard of any believer being filled with the Holy Spirit unless they were desperate for God!](#)

The bible calls this humility. The bible says that God gives Grace to the humble.

This in itself is a work of the Holy Spirit, a result of His divine influence. He frequently uses our circumstances to motivate us to humble ourselves or to make us desperate for Him. He may use a preacher to show us how much we need Him. He wants us to learn to live humbly which appears to be very difficult due to the corrupted nature of our ego. I will talk more about this in future sermons.

If He lives in you and you are desperate for God to give you His grace and exercise His divine influence on your heart, cry out to Him to fill you again with His Spirit.

If He lives in you and you are not desperate for Him, then I would ask you to cry out to God and ask Him to make you desperate for Him.

Our Home Prayer Meetings each Sunday evening this month are for those of you who are desperate for God to renew your heart for the lost. They are also a time to pray for the lost. We have been given the names of 178 lost souls. Tonight you can join with others to pray for those on this list that you have submitted. There is a story for every name. There is also an opportunity that may never reoccur.