

## Waiting for Power – Part 1

### Acts 1:6-8

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Message Transcript

We're in Acts chapter one. And we want to pick up at verse six. But we don't want to forget the introductory work that we did last week in the first five verses of the book. Because this is an unfolding story Acts chapter one, it's an unfolding story, it's going to continue to spill over into Acts chapter two. This is the history of the early church, the first 30 or 40 years of the New Testament Church, organized by Jesus Himself to be a continuation of the words and the works that Jesus did. That's part of what we covered last week, this is recap. There are 28 chapters in the book of Acts, because the 29th chapter is us, we are the continuation of the continuation of the work of Jesus were Acts chapter 29, or maybe more accurately, like Acts chapter 290, or whatever would we would be on. The point being is that the Lord empowered His disciples in the book of Acts chapter two, in order to do the work, and that is exactly where we sit in the program of the Lord. He has empowered us, as the church in 2022, to be his representatives to go out with his word and to function under the power of His Holy Spirit. So that's what we're studying and uncovering in the book of Acts. Last week, here's what we studied, Jesus had commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem, for the promise of the Father. And He called this the baptism with the Holy Spirit. In Luke chapter 24, in John chapter 20, Jesus breathed on them and said to them receive the Holy Spirit. And we believe that because Jesus said that it took place and they did receive the Holy Spirit, we see the proofs of that in those chapters, they received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and then the Lord didn't just dismiss them and say, All right, go get them. There's a world of unsaved people, the spirit is indwelling you now go get them, go Convert them, go Minister, go work, instead, after having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which is salvation, the illuminating of the scriptures within the heart of a person for the purpose of personal, personal righteousness, the Lord then said, Wait here, you're not ready. You're not ready, the spirit is within you, but you're not ready to go and do the work. He said wait in Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high, endued means to be covered, blanketed, it's to have the Holy Spirit poured out on you. It's the same concept as immersion or baptism. So all of those terms are synonymous, you have the coming upon of the Holy Spirit, the filling of the Holy Spirit, which biblically speaking means to be filled to the point of overflow, you have words like the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the point for all of it is it's the stage in a believers life. It is the level of experience with the Holy Spirit, where the Holy Spirit that is within sight of you now spills over onto the outside, and becomes visible to all those around us. Now, as we drop down to verse six, and begin to pick up here today, in this session, we are on day 40, after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Luke has told us here in the first chapter of Acts that the disciples saw Jesus in and out here and there for 40 days, this is day 40. As we get to verse six, this is the day that Jesus is going to ascend back into heaven. So he is getting ready to leave them. And then the Lord is going to send the Holy Spirit to baptize them. And that is going to happen on the day of Pentecost, which we take from Old Testament Scriptures. And we understand that to be exactly 50 days, after the Sunday after the Passover. Let me put it to you this way. 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus is the day of Pentecost. That is the day that the Lord is reserving in order to pour out the baptism of the Holy Spirit on these believers. Why is he doing that? Why are they waiting? And why are they waiting in Jerusalem? It's all about the splash. It's all about the numbers. The Feast of Passover is done. Christ was crucified three days dead and buried. He resurrected on the third day, the first Sunday after Passover. 50 days later. That's the next Jewish feast the day of Pentecost, which means that's the next big day in the city of

Jerusalem. So if you're going to make a splash, you got two options, wait until Passover next year. You can't do that to church people, they can't wait that long. Or unleash the power of the Holy Spirit, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, on the next big Jewish festival, the day of Pentecost. So as we, come to Acts, chapter one, verse six, do the math. This is 40 days after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is going to be poured out on the 50th day 50 minus 40, at least when I was in school is 10. They've got 10 days to wait. Jesus said, wait here, wait in Jerusalem, I'm gonna pour out the spirit, they've got 10 days to wait. The only problem is that they don't know that they have 10 days, they don't know how long they have to wait. They do know it is going to be days because when Jesus promised them, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, He told them it was going to happen not many days from now, that's verse two. So they know it's soon. But they don't know exactly how soon, they know it's days, but they don't know how many days. We know it's 10 days, so here's their assignment in Acts chapter one: wait for 10 days, that's all you've got to do. And if you wait for 10 days, the Lord is going to fulfill his promise. You don't have to do nothing. He's going to pour out the Holy Spirit and empower you for the work of the ministry, empower you to be a witness. Here's what that means; that means for 10 days, they've got to do their best to keep Simon Peter out of trouble. Now for us, that would be Judy, let's just admit it for anchored fellowship, that would be Judy, for them, it's Simon Peter, you got to keep Simon Peter from doing anything stupid for 10 days. Do you think they are able to accomplish that? You can see why don't want Simon Peter to be the guy waiting at the gate for me, right? Are they able to accomplish that? Well, you're probably going to have to wait until next week when we finish out this chapter. Because I only have us slated for three verses today. Now we will go as far as we can. But I can't ever think of a time where I actually covered more verses than what I actually planned for. I just don't see that happening. So we'll plan for these three verses, we'll find out if they're able to do that next week. But this week we're going to look at is this section of waiting for the Lord to fulfill his promise. So let's begin reading in verse six. Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him saying, Lord, will You at this time, restore the kingdom to Israel? Now you know what they're asking about there, right? Will You at this time, restore the kingdom to Israel? Here's what they're asking about. They're asking about the millennial kingdom.

Jesus has just promised them an all new powerful experience with the Holy Spirit. And they have no idea what that means. They have no idea what that looks like. So instead, they turn to something that they are most interested in. And in this case, it would be eschatology, which is the study of end time, Bible prophecy. And I think to myself, as I studied this, this is so much like many, many Christian people, given the option of spending time in the presence of the Lord, having an experience with him, or doing something else Christian, so that you can feel good about your decision, most people will pick something or anything else Christian. See, when the Holy Spirit comes within you and begins to live in you, it becomes very easy to be a Bible student, it should become a passion, and it becomes easy to do, because the Holy Spirit opens up our understanding of the Scriptures. And in that scenario, eschatology can be quite a good distraction to the Christian mind. The reason I say that now, you know, I will never discourage anyone from studying the Bible. I'm really big on that, in case you haven't noticed, I'll never discourage that, but I would never encourage that at the sake of having an experience with the Lord. And I'll tell you why most Christians will find something else Christian to do almost any thing else Christian to do, a Christian podcast that's easy. Click that on, kick back in the recliner. It's Christian, call it good. I'm done. Listen to a Bible teaching, read through a couple chapters of the Bible, all that stuff is very easy for the Christian. Here's what's not easy for the Christian; experiences and encounters with the Lord deep in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Because that takes things that most of us don't like, number one, it takes time. It takes quiet, it takes patience, and takes waiting on him to join you in that meeting. And that's something that's difficult for many Christians.

Now, if you have just one or the other, you're imbalanced, you know that, if you spend all your time in the Word, and you never spend time in the presence of God, you're an imbalanced Christian. Contrary wise, if you're a radical Pentecostal, we're going to talk about that term here in a little bit, but if you're a radical Pentecostal, and you only spend your time in the presence of God in the Spirit of God, then you're missing out on the word, you're imbalanced, we need both. So whatever it is that you're imbalanced in, you are, you're robbing from yourself, you're stealing from yourself, you're depriving yourself of a vital aspect of your Christian faith. And I just don't want to see that take place, you're basically cheating yourself out of something that the Lord makes readily available to you. He wants you to have experiences with him. We can't just be an intellectual church, we have to be experiential too, it takes both of those in proper balance. So the disciples here are thinking that the Millennial Kingdom is next up on the prophetic bucket list. That's the next event that's going to take place and they want to talk about that. Maybe perhaps they're even still angling for the best positions. That's something they did all throughout the ministry of Jesus, seems like every time he turned his back, they were saying, Do you think I'll be number one, you think I'll get the right hand and maybe you'll get the left hand, who's going to be the greatest in the kingdom? I don't know if they're still on about that. But here's what I do know, this study is very timely for us, because we just got done studying the book of Revelation, very thoroughly, maybe excruciatingly, so for you. And in that book study, we learned all about the millennial kingdom, didn't we? We know exactly where it sits in Bible prophecy. So tell me, based on what we've studied in the book of Revelation, how wrong are they about their timing here? Just take yourself back in the timeline, rewind yourself, all the way back to Acts chapter one. Before the ascension of Christ, he's still there and ask yourself how many prophetic Earth events have to happen before the Millennial Kingdom takes place? And the answer would be all of them. The millennial kingdom is the last epic, the last era of human history. Once the Millennial Kingdom is over, the Lord dissolves this earth with fervent heat with fire and creates a new earth. So it's the very last thing at the very end, it's in the distance. And these disciples, they're not even empowered with the Holy Spirit. And yet they are ready to rule and reign with Christ in his millennial kingdom. It's like a NASCAR guy getting out there on the start line, without his car, and taking off, running as soon as that shot is fired, it's getting way ahead of yourself, you left without your car. Same here for the disciples, they're getting way ahead of themselves. They're getting way ahead of the Lord.

Verse seven, and he said to them, it is not for you, this is Jesus distracting them and bringing the conversation back to where it needs to be. It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in his own authority. Now the father would eventually reveal more of this, it would give us more insights into the timeframe of this. But that wouldn't be for 66 or 67 years from this moment when the book of revelation was given to the apostle John, and then revealed to the church. So we would know more later, we know more now, but at the time, none of these disciples could really know where the Millennial Kingdom sat in the prophetic succession of things, and yet they want to talk about it. And the Lord says, Here's what I want to talk about. Verse eight, but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. There's that expression that we introduced last week upon you, you might want to underline those two words if you do underline in your Bible, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me, in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and all the way to Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and to the end of the earth, which I am pretty sure is Nome, Alaska, I've seen it before. There's nothing up there but the edge of the earth. So the gospel has made it up that far, these apostles they did a great job. Last week, we talked about three different prepositions that summarize the three relationships or the three experiences that any and all individuals can and could have with the Holy Spirit. You remember those prepositions? I had you underline them, started with this with you, in you, and the one we just read, upon you. All right, those are three very different Greek words. And they outline, they highlight these three different experiences. With you is the Greek word para, which means to come alongside of, which by the way, that is one of the titles of the Holy

Spirit, the Word para cleat. That means one who comes alongside of not parakeet one who repeats everything you say, para cleat, one who comes alongside of you. Second preposition, Greek word en, E-N, which means in. That one's easy. And then the third one upon you comes from the Greek word epi e-p-i., and that means upon or over. So these are the three experiences that an individual can have and we have the direction for that in the Word of God. Jesus told us in John chapter 14, verse 17, that the Holy Spirit dwells with you, this is what he said to his disciples, the Holy Spirit dwells with you, and shall be in you. And then John, chapter, pardon me, Luke chapter 24. In John chapter 20, we saw that happen, we read that the Holy Spirit came within them, saving them, and then turning the light on for the scriptures so that they can understand it. So that was promise delivered, the Holy Spirit was with the disciples for three and a half years as he ministered. And now, Luke chapter 24, John, chapter 20, the Holy Spirit is in them. And yet, as I stated, Jesus said, Wait, you're not all there yet. You're not all there yet. There's something you haven't experienced yet. There's another promise coming. So tary here in Jerusalem until you are clothed outpoured with the power of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, this third relationship with the Holy Spirit, in verse eight, it is referred to as the coming upon of the Holy Spirit. And I don't want to spend too much time on this. But I do want to give you my my standard visual aid that I do anytime I am teaching about these three different prepositions, experiences with the Holy Spirit. And I use the demonstration of water. I've done this in here before, maybe you remember it. Last time, unfortunately, I had to use great value water, so that was Walmart water, very poor representation of the Holy Spirit. This time we've upgraded its Uniontown water, city water. This stuff is so loaded with chemicals, it's so pure, nothing could survive in this water, no germs, no bacteria, probably you can't survive if you drink it. That's how pure it is. So this is our representation of the Holy Spirit here. And in this in this glass, oh, what is this called my mind's drawn a blank here, measuring pitcher, that works, in this glass pitcher, I have a jar. Now this is a mason jar because I'm a country boy. But I need for you to picture this to be a clay jar, an earthen jar because the Scripture tells us that we have this treasure Christ in earthen vessels or clay pots. So this is a clay jar. This is going to represent the individual anyone you, me, anyone. This is going to represent the Holy Spirit. And this glass pitcher is for the purpose of well, you know, trying not to make a mess and now I hope you can see through this If not, you'll get the point. We're going to start with this, this is relationship number one with the Holy Spirit. And that is, this water is with this jar. And as we're comparing this to the Holy Spirit, here's what needs to happen: the water, I better push this over a little bit balance that a little better, this water wants to be in this jar. So the purpose of this water while this water is with this jar, is to convince this jar to welcome the water into the jar. That's the whole purpose of it. This is the Holy Spirit with a person before you're saying, this is your relationship with the Holy Spirit. But you do have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, which is a good thing. You're out in the world, you don't know Christ, the Word of God hasn't been open to you, your heart hasn't been open to faith. But no matter who you are, and where you are all of your life, the Holy Spirit is with you, constantly pointing you to faith in Jesus. If the Holy Spirit wasn't a gentleman, he would call you a dummy a whole bunch and say What's wrong with you. But the Holy Spirit is a perfect gentleman. So he just lovingly comes alongside you in life, and constantly tries to get you to open your eyes up and see the truth and come to faith in Jesus so that you can be saved. So let's say this, jar has decided, I believe, I believe what the water is saying, I believe that the water should be in me and I want the water in me. So I welcome the water in me. And when that is the case, we move on to the second relationship that an individual can have with the Holy Spirit. I did not practice this in advance. So I do not know how this is going to go. Let's let's do it like this. Hmm. I think I need a I need a volunteer here to help me okay.

That was close. All right. So this is relationship number two, the first one was Para, with, this is en, in, the water is now in the jar, the Holy Spirit has come into the life of the individual. This person has been washed of sin. This person has been regenerated spiritually, they've been born again. That spirit within them was dead in trespasses and sin, it has now alive to God because the Holy Spirit came in and did a work. Why? Because this

jar confessed faith, this jar called out for salvation. This is a life that has given itself over to Christ. And the Holy Spirit has done a work the Holy Spirit has saved this life. And the Holy Spirit is working in this life, for the purpose of personal purity and righteousness. Now that brings us to a big question. If you weren't here to see that. If you didn't watch me pour the water into the jar. Here's my question. Would you know if there's anything in the jar right now, because this jar is not clear. Neither are human beings, you can't see through a body to see what's in their hearts and what's in their souls. This is a perfect representation of the individual. You couldn't see whether or not there was anything in this jar. And if so you couldn't be able to tell what it was that was in this jar. And that brings us to the third experience with the Holy Spirit. And this is for the purpose of showing the world what is in the jar. So now this person is indwelt with the Holy Spirit and now they're praying and asking Lord, I want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. baptism means immersion covered with Alright, so here's what happens relationship number three, this is the Greek word epi or the coming upon of the Holy Spirit. Now when I do this big difference right? You can see what's in the jar. Because the jar is baptized, it is covered in the water. Only then can you see what is in the jar. I'm gonna put these aside.

If you haven't been able to figure it out from the passage that we read in Acts chapter one, verse eight, you should have picked it up based on the little example that we just did, the little visual aid that we just did. The purpose of the Holy Spirit's baptism is not what most people think it is. Most Christians, when they think of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they think it's all for them. That it's for the purpose of giving me the Holy Spirit goosebumps, that it's for the purpose of giving me holy highs, that it's for the purpose of, of entertaining me, and astonishing me. And it's just all Me, me, me when they think about the Holy Spirit. But you saw from the example, the opposite is true. As far as the individual is concerned, the most powerful experience you need is that second experience with the Holy Spirit, where the Holy Spirit comes within you, that is all you need to be saved, to live a godly life in Christ and get to heaven, you never have to have that third relationship with the Holy Spirit to be right with God, and to be with him one day in heaven. What is the purpose of that third relationship with the Holy Spirit? Verse eight. It's not for primarily for you. Now there are benefits to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, personally, of course, but it's not primarily about you. The whole purpose for this third relationship with the Holy Spirit is so that other people can know what is in you, or in this case, who is in you. It is for the purpose of, as Greg just said, witnessing, and working. So the Lord wants there to be power in your life, not to impress you, not so that you can show off in front of people and show everyone just how close you are to the Lord and how super spiritual you are. That is spiritual pride. That's bad for you. That's not the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that the Lord wants there to be power in your life, so that others can see Jesus living within you. It's so that the Jesus inside of you becomes visible on the outside of you. He wants you to be a vessel for him, so that he can be visibly seen by others if you're willing to be used by him. That is called being a witness. And notice, anytime you see it in the scriptures, you're going to read it like that. It's all about being a witness, not going out and witnessing, that's not really the strength of the term witnessing is not something so much that you go out and do. It's who you are. It is a lifestyle, you're living a lifestyle, that reflects Christ, that is a state of living, where Christ is visible upon your life. And because of that visible overflow, others are then able to see that you are immersed in something, you have something in you and coming out of you that is not human. That is so much greater, so much better, so much bigger than you or any of us. And that's why the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the disciples, and in the lives of you and I is not a sufficient encounter with the Holy Spirit to accomplish his work. It's why Jesus commanded them to wait. He did not want them trying to work for him. He did not want them speaking for him. I suspect he didn't even want anyone to know that they were his apostles, until they were empowered with the Holy Spirit. And that's a truth. They aren't apostles yet. Now I know in verse two, Luke, looking back as a writer in the future, gives them that title of apostles as an honorarium, but they are not apostles yet, they are disciples, right now, disciples means in training under discipline. Apostle means

Ambassador, representative, sent one on behalf of another, they're not apostles, yet, they will be in Acts chapter two, but in Acts chapter one, they're still disciples, and Jesus says, don't do anything. Don't even speak for me. Don't even go anywhere for me, until my power is all over you. I think the Lord would say that to many Christians this day.

You're doing a lot for me, you're talking a lot for me, you're going a lot of places for me, but you're not baptized with my power, you're not baptized with my spirit, I'd rather you just kind of do that, until my spirit could be upon you. So, if you're looking for motivation to pursue the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that is it, it is the motivation that you cannot be a fully effective witness or worker for Christ without him, baptizing you into His power. And he doesn't want you to, he wants you to be baptized with his power first, and then witness and work for him. We say, What's the big deal? We we have the Holy Spirit indwelling us, the spirit is within us. We're understanding the scriptures. There's all sorts of stuff that we could do in that state, we could share the word with people, we could go do missions work, we could do some things that are effective for Christ. But the truth is, you cannot be fully effective, unless it is God's spirit that is doing the work, there may have been a work in you, but if there's not the Spirit of God on your life, you will not be able to work for him or speak for him in a fully effective way. Here's why: it takes the Spirit of God to do the work of God, you cannot do the work of God without the Spirit of God. If so, it's not going to be nearly as effective, not nearly as effective, as if the Holy Spirit, were empowering all of it. So maybe you're thinking, Okay, I'm sold. I'm interested, I would like to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. I'm not sure if that's something that I have ever experienced in my life. First of all, let me say to you, there's a good chance that you have experienced this without asking the Lord for the specific terminology. Because when it comes down to it, any prayer for the Lord's help in any situation of ministry or teaching, the Lord is going to do this, he's going to empower you for that work. So when we're praying, Okay, Lord, I gotta go. And I gotta go and teach this lesson to the kids on Sunday morning, help me Lord, empower me to do it. Speak to me, use me. When you pray those sorts of prayers, whether you're realizing it or not, even though you're not using that fine terminology, and praying for the baptism of the Spirit for the purpose of the work, nonetheless, the Lord's hearing that prayer, and he's probably doing it. But let's just say, for argument's sake, you've never experienced this. And you've wondered why the things that you tried to do for the Lord are so dry, so empty, so lifeless. You wonder why your life even is up and down and all over the place? Like Simon Peter, who, one minute in the Garden of Gethsemane, he picked up the sword and he was ready to fight to the death for Christ. But a few minutes later, he couldn't stand up to a little girl that said, Don't you know him? If that's you, if that's your situation, you're saying, I want to know I want to know more. Maybe I'm maybe there's something I'm missing an experience I don't have with the Holy Spirit that I need to empower my life in a greater way. And certainly to empower my ministry, my work, and my witnessing for the Lord. So Arlyn, big question. How do I experience this? And how will I know that I've experienced this? I want you look at verse eight. And this would be another good word to underline. Jesus uses the word receive, receive this, how you have this experience with the Holy Spirit. It's something that you receive. That is, of course, meaning that this experience with the Holy Spirit is a gift. That's what the word receive implies. It's a gift. It's not a purchase.

It's not an attainment. There's nothing to do. There's nothing to accomplish. It doesn't require self purification rituals. It doesn't require a certain number of hours at the altar, pleading with God and crying to God to give you this, it is a gift for you to receive nothing that you have to accomplish on your own. So if you have a Bible with you, I would like for you to turn with me to Luke Chapter 11. This is how we are to receive any relationship with the Holy Spirit. And it is given to us by Jesus Himself. So I want you to see this with your own eyes, if that's possible if you brought a Bible with you, if not write down these verses, and go home and read them later with your own eyes, especially verse 13. But we are going to read verses nine through 13. This is

Luke chapter 11, verses nine through 13, the words of Jesus, he said, I say to you ask, and it will be given to you seek and you will find, knock, and it will be open to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asked for bread from any father among you, will they give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish? Will they give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asked for an egg? Will he offer him a scorpion? That is a cruel parent, right? Their five year old, asking for an egg. You slip him a scorpion and giggle. That's terrible, terrible parenting. Obviously, Jesus says none of you would do anything like that. So if you then being evil, in comparison with God the Father, if you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give? Gift? Right? That's a gift he's giving it? How much more so will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? That's it. How do you receive the Holy Spirit? You ask him. How do you get baptized with the Holy Spirit? You ask him, it's a gift. He offers it to you that you might just take it that you might just receive it. So if you want to be saved and receive the Holy Spirit, how does it work? You asked for it. How? By faith. I mean, you have to believe that what you're asking for the Lord is going to give to you. If you don't have faith when you ask anything from the Lord, James says, how can how can that man have confidence that he's going to get anything that he asked from the Lord, if he asked without faith, everything that comes from the Lord, it's all about that thing right there true faith. So if you're asking for the Lord, Lord, save me, send the Holy Spirit to live with in me and you turn around you say, I know this ain't gonna happen. I just you know it. I'm not good enough. The Lord doesn't like me has been picking on me all my life. No, the Holy Spirit's just been pushing you to Christ because the Lord loves you passionately and wants to save you. It's all about faith, for salvation for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we ask for it by faith. And if we believe that we will receive it, when we ask for it, we will receive it.

And the process, if you want to call it that, for receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is the exact same thing. It is a saved individual, coming to the Lord in prayer and saying, Lord, I want your power all over me. I want the Christ that is within me, to overflow me, so that people can see what is in here, so that people can see you instead of me. So that Lord, your work can really begin to affect people. One of the metaphors that Jesus gave for the Holy Spirit was that if a person comes to Christ and believes in Him, that from his innermost being would gush forth torrents of living water, a fountain of water, Jesus said, so basically what the Lord wants to do in the baptism of the Holy Spirit is he wants to overflow you so that others can be refreshed from you spiritually. He basically wants to turn you into a spiritual drinking fountain. It's not for you. It's for others. It's for the work. It's for witnessing that others might see Christ through you, and how you get that is as simple as how you got your salvation. You're saved. The Spirit is in you, and now you're asking the Lord, overflow me. Pour your power upon my life. And if you do that without faith, I would say you can expect to get absolutely nothing from that you'll be just as dry and empty as when you, well before you asked the Lord, but if you can ask that question to the Lord, if You can pray that prayer, say, Lord, I know people are watching me. I know the cameras are rolling, but I'm coming up front. I'm gonna ask you to baptize me in the Holy Spirit. And when you do, I'm going to believe that you have, and I'm just going to move forward based on that faith. Regardless of what I do feel a regardless of what I don't feel, I'm going to ask you, believe you, and I'm going to move forward as if it's so in life. And if you'll do that, if it's true Biblical faith, and not you just like trying to trick yourself, I believe, I believe, I know I don't, but I believe I believe. If it's true Biblical faith, you'll find something happening. Maybe right away. Maybe in that moment, maybe you'll get, you know, goosebumps, that start up where the pituitary gland is, and run all the way down to the soles of your feet, you'll feel those, that tingling sensation, the hairs on the back of your neck will raise I don't know, maybe you'll have an emotional experience. Maybe you'll weep. Maybe you'll rejoice. Maybe you'll speak in tongues, maybe you won't. Maybe you won't feel a thing. But if your faith is genuine, and you continue on in the life, you'll notice things are changing. The Holy Spirit is taking over and baptizing you with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes within to indwell an individual, that's the possessive work. That's when we can say, I

have the Holy Spirit. He's mine. He's in me, and he won't leave. You can make him uncomfortable, you can quench the Holy Spirit. But if you are a truly saved individual that confesses sin, and continues on with the Lord, even when he gets quenched and uncomfortable, he'll stay. He'll live in you he'll continue to be in you, helping you, inspiring you teaching you. That's the possessive one, I have the Holy Spirit, but the big question between the second and third relationship with the Holy Spirit is this: second relationship, you have the Holy Spirit. Third relationship, here's the big question, does the Holy Spirit have you, because if you're ministering and witnessing and working, and living your life within that second relationship with the Holy Spirit, you're pretty much doing it on your own. You're doing it with knowledge, you have the Scripture, so it's a good thing. But you're doing it on your own, the Holy Spirit is not controlling that, that third relationship is for the purpose of him, covering you. Pouring over your life overflowing you so that he has control, so that when you go to open your mouth, or in my case, that big trap, it's the Lord that takes over and speaks. When you're leading those songs, and you're baptized in the Holy Spirit, it's the Holy Spirit that's moving through the congregation. Doesn't so much matter what you're doing, the Holy Spirit is overpowering that work, guiding you like never before. It is an experience that we absolutely must have if we are to work for Christ. How will you know for sure that you've been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Well, we will cover that in chapter two. That's two weeks from now. I won't leave you hanging that much. I will say this. This next statement is for Christians outside of anchored fellowship. I want to make this statement. It is time for us to stop being biblically illiterate, it is time for us to stop misunderstanding the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Alright, now I'm back to speaking to this church. There are some that tried to make this into a whole big process and a whole big ordeal. I wish I had more time I would share my story with you in full. But I spent the first however many months of my Christian experience, convinced that if I did not speak in tongues, I was not baptized with the Holy Spirit. I didn't even know about the second relationship with the Holy Spirit. I thought that if the Holy Spirit was going to be in my life, I had to speak in tongues. It was a crazy belief, because I believed I was saved kind of. But I believe that I was waiting for the Lord to finish off that work. I was in this weird limbo state. And I gotta tell you, I did not like it. So I was up at this altar every time I got a chance and I prayed and I cried my eyes out. And people kept telling me yield, yield to the Holy Spirit. I had no idea what that meant. All I know is I was trying to yield to the Holy Spirit. But nothing was working. I had some people tell me, maybe it's, you know, the sanctification aspect. Maybe there's something that that's just not right with you yet, maybe something needs cleaned up. So it was all in my mind, my fault. The reason why God would not baptize me with the Holy Spirit was all my fault. And until I could speak in tongues, I could not accept the fact that I was baptized with the Holy Spirit, brutal experience. And the reason that all came about and became an accepted part of certain church movements, is because the first encounter that the apostles, the disciples, the 120, in the upper room we're going to have with the Holy Spirit, is going to be evidenced by the speaking in tongues. They're all going to speak in tongues. And that's as far as some Bible students are willing to look. And they figure if that happened the first time, that's what it's all about. And they have taught, this is how I learned growing up. That that is the evidence for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the speaking in tongues. That's it. That's the evidence. If you're going to be baptized, with the Holy Spirit, get ready to speak some gibberish, get ready to lose control, have no idea what you're saying. And that's it. That's the experience. I have come to find out through simple Bible study that is so far from the truth. Here's what I'd like to correct out there in the Christian world, in the more hardcore Pentecostal circles, I would like to correct this fact, the speaking in tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It's not the gift of the Holy Spirit. In fact, Paul will tell us it is the least of all the gifts. Like if you had to pick one gift from the Holy Spirit that you did not get that would be the one because it's the selfish gift. We'll explain that as we go through the book of Acts, Paul says that's the least the greatest gift of the Spirit is prophecy, speaking on behalf of the Lord. So there's all these gifts of the Spirit.



And I began to study ages ago through the book of Acts to find out if maybe all of the gifts of the Spirit, are evidences for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you know what I found? I found that to be absolutely true. That the same disciples that at first pray and get baptized with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues, the next time they do this, right, because this isn't the possessive work, this is an ongoing process. This is something that once you get baptized the first time you're going to want to pray for that everyday Lord, baptize me with the Holy Spirit today, because I want to work for you. I want to speak for you baptize me, Lord. Well, as they continued, time after time praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will come upon them and then a gift of the Holy Spirit would manifest itself as an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So sometimes the book of Acts will read like this, here's the first one. And they all they all were baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. But sometimes it'll read like this. And they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. And they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and prophesied. So one thing after another, we see the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All of them are manifestations of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And there's all sorts of gifts, like the gifts of helps, the gifts of administration. You see why this teaching about tongues only is so destructive to the true Christian that wants this baptism experience. Because if you're a secretary, and your job is administration, and that's what you were in the secular world, and now you come into the church, and you get saved and that's the role you're gonna fill Secretary, admin work, and you pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit to do the work. But you're mad because you didn't speak in tongues. However you do notice, you're getting much better at your admin work. You have gifts now in the admin field that you never experienced before. The Bible would teach us that is a proof and evidence that when you prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Lord answered Your prayer with the gift he wanted to give you. Paul asks rhetorically Do all speak in tongues? And it is written in the Greek with an expected negative. And that is how the verse goes on to read the context. What Paul is saying is, of course, not all people speak with tongues. It is a gift that God chooses for some people. He has all sorts of gifts that he wants to assign to us. And those will come out and blossom in our lives as we continue, not just one time., but as we continue to be baptized for the work of the Kingdom daily, as we continue to seek for that, and continue to be filled with his power for the work. Would you stand with me? Worship team, come on up. Oh, we have much more talk about this topic coming up in the future over the next? Oh, I don't know, I would guess 40 Some weeks. I'd like to say 28. But that's not very realistic. So if you're confused, hang in there, we're going to get to all of this. I will just say that for the disciples, there was a necessary waiting period, what was the Lord waiting for the day of Pentecost, he was going to make a big splash with this. But I want you to know from that point forward, there's no waiting period, there's no out of stock. You don't have to wait to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You don't have to go through any crazy rituals, you don't have to accomplish anything. The Lord is ready. He is ready right now to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. And I know we got a lot to learn about the Holy Spirit over the next handful of, well, months. And we will do just that. But do you realize we are already just based on the last two weeks, we are already more well informed than the disciples were in Acts chapter one. What did they know? Wait here, power is on the way. I'm gonna baptize you with my power. That's it. And when I do, then you're going to go out and you're going to start working. That's all they knew. So we know right now way more than them. And that is why I'm going to offer an invitation to you that if you're maybe unsure about whether you've been baptized with the Spirit, if you've never specifically asked for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, why not make today day number one? It will be a lifelong thing for you should be daily, certainly weekly, but why not make this day number one? Why not say Lord, take whatever it is that you want to gift me with and fill me with the Holy Spirit for that work. Fill me with the Holy Spirit for that gifting. And I'll use it for you. If that's you, I'm going to ask you to just be like ridiculously bold and brave and come up front right now. We'll gather a group of people, strong prayers around you, and we'll pray for you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Would anyone like to come?