stress the experience of being baptized in the Spirit.”[[1]](#footnote-1) I personally wake up every day and ***ask*** for a fresh experience with the Holy Spirit so that I might testify to God’s power in my life (see Luke 11:13; Acts 3:19).

**-As a church, we are called to pray for fresh outpourings of God’s power in our lives that our witness may continue.** The early church realized the connection between continual acts of God’s power and an authentic witness. So should we.

For Small Group Discussion.

-Explain to the group exactly what you have witnessed of the Lord and His power in your life.

-Read John 14:15,16 and discuss the connection between the Holy Spirit’s power and our obedience.

-Please spend time praying that God would pour out His Holy Spirit upon our church that we might witness and then testify about His power.

Have a great week! We love you.

Jay and Mona

“A Powerful Witness…Witnesses the Power”

Text: Acts 1:1-11 2/1/10 Pastor Jay

Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration

It is estimated that the Christian “movement” grew to over 1 million people by 100AD. This was at a time when it was not socially advantageous to become a believer. In fact, conversion in the first 100 years of the faith was often accompanied by financial, physical, and emotional torment. How then did the church grow so quickly, so large?

The answer is found in the word “witness.” Jesus said that the church would be spread by *witnesses* (Acts 1:8). A ***witness*** is simply one who experiences a thing personally and is prepared to testify regarding it. The early believers knew Jesus personally and were able to talk about his life, his ministry, and his resurrection (see 1 John 1:1). And they also experienced the ***power*** of the Holy Spirit at work among them (Ephesians 3:20). As they experienced the dramatic works of the Spirit, the church could speak with personal authority.

A good place to see this dynamic at work is in Acts 3,4. John and Peter are involved in the miracle of giving a lame man the ability to walk, which awes of the community. Peter let them know it was done by the *power* of the Holy Spirit (3:12). When they were told to be quiet about the miracle, the apostles simply said, “We cannot help but speak of what we have seen and heard” (4:20). The result? 5000 people became believers (4:4). Furthermore, the early witnesses seemed to realize that their “witness” was only as strong as their experience with great and mighty works of the Holy Spirit, so the church prayed that God would continue to do manifest His power among them (4:29-31).

Today, the Lord still grows the church by the personal witness of people His people. When Jesus told the disciples that they would be witnesses of his power from “Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the end of the earth,” (Acts 1:8) we must believe this promise to be for us as well because the ends of the earth have not yet been reached. We are also witnesses of God’s power.

Mega points:

**-We are called to witness.** In other words we are called to have intimate knowledge of the Lord Jesus and his power and simply share what we know. And, we all know something or we wouldn’t be here! You know something about your calling, about what God has done in your life, about what God is doing in your life today. This is what you have witnessed. Now be prepared to speak about it (1 Peter 3:16).

-**We are called experience the Holy Spirit.** Jesus told the early disciples (and us) that we are to ***receive*** power. Paul prays that the Ephesians would ***know*** the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:15-20 and 3:14-21). John Piper, writes: “ When you read the New Testament honestly, you can’t help but get the impression of a big difference from a lot of contemporary Christian experience. For them the Holy Spirit was a fact of experience. For many Christians today it is a fact of doctrine….It is easy to imagine a spiritual counselor saying to a new convert today, ‘Don’t expect to notice any difference: just believe you have received the Spirit.’ But that is far from what we see in the New Testament. The Pentecostals are right to

(over)

1. ***How to Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit*** (4/29/84) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)