

Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...” The Holy Spirit is just as real as Jesus was during the years of His earthly ministry. The ministry of Jesus was sacrifice; the ministry of the Holy Spirit is empowering. The power of the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost once for all. The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus for the entire dispensation, for the whole church. When we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit for regeneration. Yet there is much more to be appropriated. As Christ came to earth to make atonement for sin and to give eternal life, so the Holy Spirit came to earth to bring “power from on high.” As believers we must similarly receive the Holy Spirit by faith to be equipped for service. We must appropriate the power of the Spirit by conscious faith. It isn’t enough for Him to indwell us; He wants to empower us. We receive “the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” by faith (Eph. 1:7). Likewise, we must be “strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man” by faith (Eph. 3:16). It is a conscious decision. Just as we surrendered to Christ, we must surrender to the Spirit. We must appropriate the Spirit as sons in the same way we appropriated Christ as sinners. This empowering has been forgotten. It is viewed as fanaticism, even by evangelicals. It has been replaced by the wisdom of the world and modern technology. The Holy Spirit is restricted without fervent prayer. For revival to come, there must be boldness of praying in the Spirit (Jude 20). We need revival to restore the power of Pentecost. Without the Holy Spirit, our training, our education, our methods, and our efforts get in the way of what God wants to do. We need to get back to basics. “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them’” (Acts 13:2). When the church does that, we will see the Holy Spirit released in great power, but not before. HA