

Acts 2:38 – “...and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Andrew Murray, the famous South African preacher, said: “The greatest need of the church, and the thing which, above all other, believers ought to seek for with one mind and with their whole heart, is to be filled with the Spirit of God...Every day ought to be a Pentecostal season in the church of Christ...The Spirit did it all on the day of Pentecost and afterwards. It was the Spirit who gave the boldness, the Spirit who gave the wisdom, the Spirit who gave the message, and the Spirit who gave the converting power.” The 120 knew something was happening when they heard what sounded like a hurricane. It was the Holy Spirit coming in power. The Holy spirit came on Pentecost to indwell believers for the first time in salvation history. Until then the Holy Spirit came upon people, clothed himself with people, and anointed people, but never had He indwelt the people of God. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God promised by the Father (Acts 1:4). He came to give power for witnessing to the saving power of Jesus Christ. People are afraid to talk about the Holy Spirit today. Sometimes we act as though we are ashamed of the Holy Spirit. Paul met some disciples who had never heard there was a Holy Spirit. There are people like that in the church today. Unfortunately, the subject of the Holy Spirit has been hijacked by people who seek phenomena. They want the power of the Holy Spirit without the holiness of the Holy Spirit. The way they cavort is embarrassing. I’m sure the Holy Spirit is embarrassed. The consequence of these unscriptural demonstrations of the Holy Spirit is a generation of Christians that don’t know His power. It is time we believe and receive what Jesus promised. The Spirit is waiting. God wants to send revival, and no one seems to want the Holy Spirit. At least they don’t know what to do with Him. We believe in the Holy Spirit as a doctrine but not as the power necessary for revival. He, the Spirit, is the forgotten person of the Trinity. Let’s lay aside our prejudices and preconceived ideas and ask for a new relationship with the Holy Spirit. Tell Him you will surrender everything that hinders your walk and holiness, if He will fill you with His power. John Wesley, and George Whitefield were ordinary preachers until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. After that, they brought a new social order to England through decades of revival. We don’t need to be afraid of what people think. We certainly don’t need to be afraid of the Holy Spirit. We need to be afraid of our feckless lives without Him. Ask for the Spirit to fill you and to empower you. Then enjoy the boldness you will have in prayer and witnessing. And pray for a Holy Spirit revival. HA