

Pt 5 - MOMENTUM: An Unstoppable Force

We have a vision to be a church that is purely motivated and galvanised by New Testament principles.

A church filled with people who are equipped for life spiritually and emotionally and who allow the Holy Spirit to lead them throughout our great Nation and the world doing amazing things for the ‘Cause’ of Christ.

...The commissioning of the Disciples

A time in Jesus’ life that isn’t often spoken about is the period between His resurrection from the dead up to when He physically left the earth in **Acts 1**

For 40 days Jesus spent time with His team of disciples and He lays out His game plan for them to champion and to outwork once He leaves them.

Jesus’ game plan basically is explained in one verse - **Acts 1:8**

It was and is a huge honour to be called to represent God to the world.
“...and you will be my witnesses...”

Witness’s means “*martyrs*” - those who are willing to lay their whole lives on the line, even to the point of losing them.

When Jesus called the disciples to take the message of love to the world, He wasn’t asking for a half hearted commitment, He was asking them to ‘*risk*’ it all.

However, a vital ingredient was missing for the disciples to achieve their purpose. They needed something beyond themselves! **Acts 1:1-5** (*note vs 4*)

...The empowering of the Disciples

This promised ‘*power*’ of the Holy Spirit had not yet come to the disciples. The original promise of the Holy Spirit’s coming is found in **John 14:15-17**.

Jesus said in **Acts 1:8** *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;*

Jesus was saying that the disciples needed to be empowered and equipped to achieve the task Jesus set before them.

The most important experience in the life of a Christ-follower is to be Spirit-Led and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

The word **‘power’** appears 163 times in the King James Version and in 77 of these occurrences the word is translated from the original Greek word **‘dunamis’** and 69 times from the Greek word **‘exousia.’**

‘Dunamis’ means an *‘inherent, self-reproducing power.’*

The **‘dunamis’** power of the Holy Spirit gives to us - which is the ability to act.

To experience this **‘dunamis’** power, we must know God personally and be filled with His Holy Spirit.

‘Exousia’ on the other hand, is *‘a delegated authority, or right, or privilege.’* Those that have authority have the power to command.

While **‘dunamis’** is resident in the person, being a part of their spiritual life, **‘exousia’** is an authority given to or conferred upon the person.

The game plan Jesus gave His first followers was *‘a supernatural game plan for people to find their way back to God.’*

Up to this stage the disciples had not experienced this empowerment of the Holy Spirit for themselves but Jesus had already experienced the power of the Holy Spirit after He was baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan.

Luke 3:21-22

...The empowering of Jesus

One of the most vital keys to Jesus’ life and ministry was the fact that His entire ministry was empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Before His incarnation (*or becoming man*) Christ was equal with God the Father and He possessed all the attributes of Deity.

Philippians 2:5-8 (rsv)

The word **‘emptied’** in **vs 7** comes from the original Greek word **‘kenoo.’** Which means to *‘empty oneself’*, or to *‘offload.’*

Jesus stripped Himself of all divine capability and limited Himself only to such properties as are natural to a human being.

Hebrews 2:17

In His former condition Jesus was with God, and was God (*John 1:1-3*), the Creator and Upholder of all things... (*Colossians 1:16-19*).

In His latter condition He “*emptied Himself*”, “*made in the likeness of a man*”, in all respects like His brothers and sisters” (*Philippians 2:7-8, Hebrews 2:17*)

Jesus retained His divine identity, but surrendered His divine powers.

Jesus surrendered all His divine attributes before He came down from heaven to earth, and therefore was actually void of them during His earthly life.

As a man, Christ endured the same temptations we meet, and mastered them with the same weapons that are available to us.

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus made no attempt to commence ministry until He had received this endowment of power. **Luke 4:1; Luke 4:14**

Jesus needed the same baptism in the Holy Spirit as we do, and He obtained it on the same conditions, as we do. **Isaiah 11:1-2**

So necessary was this baptism, that without it Jesus couldn't have accomplished the awesome mission given to Him by the Father. **Isaiah 42:1**

Jesus was dependent upon the baptism of the Spirit to equip Him for the service of God. **Isaiah 61:1-2**

Aside from Holy Spirit baptism there was apparently little that was remarkable about Jesus:

- He merged easily into the crowd (*John 8:59; 7:10-15, 20*)
- The authorities had to bribe Judas to identify Him (*Matthew 26:48-49*)
- He was known as “*Josephs son*” (*Luke 4:22*)
- Even His name was common as it belonged to many Jewish boys in those days.

If it was essential for the Lord to be equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit, how much more do we need this infilling of power?

In His own ministry He conclusively demonstrated the value and need of Holy Spirit baptism.

- So we see that Christ was born of the Spirit (Matthew 1:20)
- His ministry was performed in the anointing of the Spirit (Luke 4:18)
- He suffered and died in the enabling of the Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)
- He was raised from the dead by the Spirit (Romans 1:4; 8:11)
- In His ascension He received the Holy Spirit from the Father to be given to the church (Acts 2:33)

... Conclusion

If He is our master, then we should be obedient in following in His steps. Let us then claim the promise of the Father just as Jesus did and in the power of the Holy Spirit complete all that the Father has given us to do.

If we are to be a church that is purely motivated and galvanised by New Testament principles.

A church filled with people who are equipped for life spiritually and emotionally and who allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to do amazing things for the ‘Cause’ of Christ.

Then we need to build the momentum of the Holy Spirit as He motivates us to carry on the ministry of Christ in becoming an unstoppable force!