



## PNEUMA: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...Week 8

**I don't want my life to be explainable without the Holy Spirit.**

I want people to look at my life and know that I couldn't be doing this by my own power. I want to live in such a way that I am desperate for Him to come through. That if He doesn't come through, I am screwed.

*(I probably shouldn't write that word here, but it's how I truly feel about this.)*

Francis Chan

The Forgotten God - Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

### Break the Bottle!

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." <sup>6</sup> Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial." <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." (John 12:1–8 NLT-SE)

When I reflect on this story, I always read myself as the protagonist. I am Mary, overflowing with passionate devotion and fearless love. I despise public opinion and pour my life out for the Lord. But too often that's not how I act. I am like the disciples. Caught up in details, enslaved by acceptability, afraid of being seen as an extremist...I am Martha, knowing I should be sitting at the feet of the Lord but behaving like a control freak. I become consumed with attending to the practical details because "I live in the real world," where we can pray all we want but at the end of the day, we still have to get things done. I find myself both drawn to and repelled by Mary's brand of passionate devotion.. ~ Jon Tyson. *The Burden Is Light*



Jon Tyson ~ Church of the City New York

- **"Passion always critiques complacency."**

- Binge-watching entire seasons of TV shows on Netflix. **Normal.**
- Spending four thousand dollars on a trip to Europe. **Normal.**
- Training hours a week to maintain our looks. **Normal.**

- Joining a fantasy sports league and tracking it like a Wall Street trader. **Normal.**
- Devoting your life to serving Jesus. **Extreme, probably unhealthy.**
- **Question:** Could Mary have done what she did **without** the power of the Holy Spirit?

### What Is the Power of the Holy Spirit?

- **The power of the Holy Spirit IS the power of God.** The Holy Spirit has appeared throughout Scripture as a being through and by whom great works of power are made manifest. It was by His power that the world came into being...
  - <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And **the Spirit of God was hovering** over the surface of the waters. (Gen. 1:1–2 NLT-SE)
- **The Holy Spirit also empowered men in the Old Testament to bring about God's will.** So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power."
  - So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And **the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David** from that day on. (1 Sam. 16:13 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. <sup>3</sup> **I have filled him with the Spirit of God**, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. <sup>4</sup> He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. <sup>5</sup> He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft! (Ex. 31:1–5 NLT-SE)
  - The LORD replied, "Take Joshua son of Nun, **who has the Spirit in him**, and lay your hands on him. (Num. 27:18 NLT-SE)
- Although **the Spirit did not permanently indwell** God's people in the Old Testament, He worked through them and gave them power to achieve things they would not have been able to accomplish on their own. All of Samson's feats of strength are directly attributed to the Spirit coming upon him.
  - At that moment **the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him**, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat...Then **the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him**. He went down to the town of Ashkelon, killed thirty men, took their belongings, and gave their clothing to the men who had solved his riddle...As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But **the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson**, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists. (Judg. 14:6, 19, 15:14 NLT-SE)
- After his resurrection and before he ascended to the Father, Jesus promised to send the disciples the Spirit as a guide, teacher, seal of salvation, and comforter for believers (John 14:16-18). **He also promised that the Holy Spirit's power would help His followers to spread the message of the gospel around the world...**
  - **"You will receive power** (<sup>G1411</sup> **dynamis**...power, strength, ability, energy, authority, might, miraculous power) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NLT-SE).
- During His earthly ministry, **Jesus** was...
  - **Filled with the Holy Spirit** <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. (Luke 4:1–2 NLT-SE)

- **Led by the Spirit** <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. <sup>15</sup> He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. (Luke 4:14–15 NLT-SE)
- **Empowered by the Spirit to perform miracles** <sup>27</sup> If I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said. <sup>28</sup> But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. (Matt. 12:27–28 NLT-SE)
- The salvation of souls is a supernatural work only made possible by the **Holy Spirit's power** at work through the lives of believers.
  - **When the Holy Spirit descended upon believers at Pentecost, it was not a “controlled burn,” but a wildfire!** <sup>1</sup> On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. <sup>4</sup> And **everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.** (Acts 2:1–4 NLT-SE).
  - Next, the disciples addressed the crowds gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. These were people who came from many regions in the Middle East and therefore spoke many different languages. Imagine their shock when the disciples spoke to them in their own tongues (verses 5–12)! **The Holy Spirit's power was present** for a great number of people that day, the result was the conversion of about 3,000 (verse 41).
- After Jesus had ascended to heaven, the Spirit equipped the apostles to perform miracles, as well. **The power of the Holy Spirit was manifest among all the believers of the early church through the dispensation of spiritual gifts** such as speaking in tongues, prophesying, teaching, wisdom, and more. ~ **Theology 101**
  - The world is not moved by love or actions that are of human creation. And the church is not empowered to live differently from any other gathering of people without the Holy Spirit. **But when believers live in the power of the Spirit, the evidence in their lives is supernatural.** The church cannot help but be different, and the world cannot help but notice. ~ Francis Chan. *The Forgotten God - Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*
  - When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, **the Lord opened a door** of opportunity for me. (2 Cor. 2:12 NLT-SE)
  - A deep sense of awe came over them all, and **the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.** (Acts 2:43 NLT-SE)
- **All those who put their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately and permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit.** Bottom line: The Holy Spirit still works in and through believers to accomplish His will. His power leads us, convicts us, teaches us, and equips us to do His work and spread the gospel.
  - The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies **by this same Spirit living within you.** (Rom. 8:11 NLT-SE)
  - Thinking, questioning, and talking can take the place of letting the Spirit affect our immediate actions in radical ways. God wants to see His children stake everything on His power and presence in their lives. ~ Francis Chan. *The Forgotten God - Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*
  - Is it time to abandon measured passion and do something unreasonable? ~ Jon Tyson. *The Burden Is Light*

**Is it time to break the bottle?**