



Part 6: God's Presence for Ministry and Witness
Acts 1:1-11

All fruitful gospel ministry happens in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I. Our Need & Jesus' Supply

“Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you heard me speak about. For John **baptized with water**, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**...But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:4, 8

According to Jesus, knowledge of him and his ways is not enough for fruitful gospel ministry. Good intentions are not enough. Even radical faith is not enough!

“Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are ships without wind or chariots without steeds. Like branches without sap, we are withered. Like coals without fire, we are useless.” – Charles Spurgeon

II. Plunged into the Spirit

“For John **baptized with water**, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:4, 8

The verb “*baptize*” = to immerse; to plunge beneath the surface (see parallel imagery with John’s water baptism – Luke 3:15-18). This raises two questions:

1. What is Jesus referring to?
2. When does this happen?

The Church’s answer to these two questions has generally fallen into three camps:

1. When we are baptized with water (high view of the sacrament of baptism);

2. When we are spiritually “born again” or regenerated by the Spirit through faith and repentance (see Romans 6; 1 Corinthians 12:13);
3. Subsequent experience(s) after our regeneration.

After rejecting #1, humility and wisdom require that we hold our position loosely, because there are many historical examples of #3.

“...the ways in which the blessing comes are almost endless. We must be careful lest we restrict them or lest we try to systematize them too much, or, still worse, lest we mechanize them.” – Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Joy Unspeakable*, 243.

“Whatever we may call it and however one may enter it, what is important is for all Christians to experience what **the baptism of the Spirit implies: the fullness of God’s Spirit and power in witness.**” – Ajith Fernando, National Director of Youth for Christ Sri Lanka.

III. Living in Acts 29

Adam Long’s interview with Ethiopian church planter.
 Questions, doubts, longing...
 Loud power vs. Quiet power

IV. Thirsting for More of the Spirit’s Power

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” John 7:37-38

“So, I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened...how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
 Luke 11:9-10, 13

“This is the turning point in my life. This will revolutionize my ministry.” – Billy Graham