

*The Day the Holy Spirit Broke Through*  
Pentecost: The Birth of the Church in the Power of the Spirit  
*Power For Breakthrough Series – Part 3*

Acts 2:1-12, 37-41

May 30-31, 2026

Teaching/Story Vignette #1 – Pentecost

- Jesus promises power to His people
  - Jesus told His followers to wait – John baptized with **water**, but you will be **baptized** by the **Holy Spirit**.
  - You will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.
  - You will be my **witnesses**: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, end of the earth.
    - Acts 1:1-11 – [Jesus told His followers] *“...to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...<sup>8</sup> you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- The ONE with power arrives
  - **[READ]** Acts 2:1-12 – *“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.<sup>1</sup> <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
  - Large group of **international Jews**
  - Heard praising of God in their **own language<sup>2</sup>**
  - **What does this mean?**
    - Acts 2:5-11 – *“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?— ...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” <sup>12</sup> And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”*
  - **[Peter preached the gospel to them]**
- The Result
  - What shall we do? **Repent and be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**, and you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.
  - Those who believed were baptized = **3000**.
    - Acts 2:37-41 *“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”...*

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<sup>1</sup> *Wind and fire* signify God’s presence — echoes of Sinai and God’s glory filling the temple. (Tyler Stanton has an excellent sermon on Pentecost that highlights the fire and wind significance from the Old Testament. You can listen [HERE](#).)

<sup>2</sup> Pentecost tongues likely represent the *reversal of Babel*—unity and communication restored for the sake of the gospel.

*<sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."*

## Teaching/Story Vignette #2 – Philip and the Ethiopian

- What did the effect look like? – the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8.
  - Angel says **go & wait** - An angel told Philip to go to a certain location and wait for instructions. He went.
  - **Ethiopian** parked - Parked there was a chariot with a high-ranking official, the Treasurer of Ethiopia.
  - HS says **go & wait** - The Holy Spirit told him to go stand near it.
  - Reading **Isaiah 53** - The Ethiopian was reading the scroll of Isaiah, the part about a man, just like an innocent lamb being led to the slaughter, but murdered for something he didn't do.
  - Understand? No. **Help** - Philip asked if he understood what he was reading? He didn't. The Ethiopian asked if it was the author talking about himself or someone else and invited Philip up into the chariot to talk as they drove.
  - **Gospel** - From that very passage Philip explained the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - **Baptized?** - The Ethiopian was so moved he saw water and asked if he can be baptized. Philip said, 'if you believe this good news with all your heart, you may.'" The Ethiopian said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
  - **Yep** - They stopped the chariot and Philip baptized him right there.
    - Ac 8:26–38 – *"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" [Some manuscripts add all or most of verse 37: And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."*

## Introduction

- The world was never going to be reached by regular people impressed with Jesus Christ. That would have been **nice**. It would have been a **movement**. It would have been a special time of **revival**, **but it would not have changed the world** the way the Christian Church did. **BUT, it WAS done THROUGH regular people who followed Jesus**. So, what was the **difference**?

- The Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes
  - The Spirit fills *all* believers — no longer limited to prophets or priests; every follower is empowered.
  - Every nation - The miracle of understanding shows the Spirit's desire to make the good news accessible to every nation.
- At Pentecost the promise was fulfilled: the Holy Spirit came with *wind and fire*, filling Jesus' followers with God's own presence and power. He gave them words they hadn't prepared, authority they hadn't earned, and results no human strength could produce—transforming fear into courage and launching the church's mission to the world.
- Philip was evidence – *The Holy Spirit filled and directed Philip* to do everything he needed to do and the *world continued to change.*

The Spirit empowers us to do what we cannot do in our own strength

### Lesson

- We are called to continue that legacy – we need to be part of the breakthrough of heaven into this world. How do we join?
  - Our identity as the Church – *When we gave our lives to Jesus Christ we were connected to God in a whole new way and given a new identity, mission, and purpose.* Before, we were living for ourselves, building our own kingdom, doing our own thing. Although we thought those things were significant, in the grand scheme of things *we were living OUTSIDE of our created intent.* When we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior, *we fused with Him and entered a greater identity and became part of something far more important: The family, body, and kingdom of God.*
  - The BODY of Christ - we are the BODY of Christ. *Before my legs carry me from this side of the stage to the other, my brain decided it should.* The commands are sent out from Mission Control in my head to tell my body what to do. Some of us here have neurological disorders like *Cerebral Palsy* or *Parkinson's Disease* which demonstrate what happens when our brain and body connection is disrupted or the body is resistant to taking commands and does its own thing. But when that connection is clean and tight, our *body serves the will of our brain. This is how the body of Christ ought to be. Jesus has a lot of things He wants to do in this world THROUGH us.*
  - Letting God bring breakthrough personally: Let it work in us first – *before we go out to the world to share what's possible, we need to let it become possible within us.* We can share while in process but there needs to at least be a beginning of breakthrough in us. We cannot share what we don't have.
    - We are family before workers – *Before we go and DO for the Lord, we need to learn how to BE with the Lord and that means understanding the relationship dynamics.* The Bible uses a variety of metaphors about our connection to the Lord and it can get a bit confusing, but each one shows something beautiful and deep.

- Children of God - For example, sometimes we are referred to as CHILDREN of God. This metaphor is to demonstrate that God cares about us in a special way. It talks about us being under His guidance, protection and provision. It talks about us needing to follow His example and learn to be like Him. It describes concepts like authority, and inheritance.
- Bride of Christ – sometimes we are referred to as the bride of Christ collectively as a community of believers to demonstrate the depth of connection and intimacy with God. The fusion that occurs at marriage is different than a nuclear family member. Family shares blood, marriages fuse souls. The whole point is to demonstrate that Christ chose us, wants us, loves us, enjoys us, and is willing to die for us.
- Beyond servants and soldiers – although we function as soldiers and servants of God, the Holy Spirit teaches us through the Bible that WHO we are to the Lord is more precious than what we can DO for Him. Doing is valuable and important but secondary. This is why personal relationship is such a critical component in Christianity.
- Our Mission
  - The disciples are told to *wait* for power – Notice from our earlier story, Jesus told His followers to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them BEFORE they began their mission for Him. This is a perfect model to talk about the timing of the Spirit. Waiting is key to breakthrough. Too often we see what's possible and we push for it inappropriately. We want more good things of God but we force it. Part of allowing God to bring breakthrough into our lives is like following Him in a dance. He leads. There are times and seasons where He/God gets all the emotional and spiritual infrastructure ready for practical breakthrough.
  - The Will of God – God is and should be in control. Yes? We all need breakthrough and the world needs breakthrough because things are amiss, right?
    - Only He knows – But here's the thing: ONLY God knows WHAT needs to be fixed, HOW it should be fixed, and WHEN it should be fixed. This means that we are not to come up with fresh ideas of our own but to align with His plan obediently.
    - Listening and waiting for His whisper and timing – this requires us learning how to hear the voice of God and to track on His timing. If we do something GOOD, on our own, it's likely to either fail or be far more difficult. If GOD calls it, He'll empower it, and it will go far smoother and more effective.
    - God wants to empower His people – God's favorite thing seems to be partnering with His kids, us, to do things in this world. He WANTS to empower His people. He wants to anoint us with His authority. He wants to equip us for impact. But Why?

- Power for what? – **fixing broken things**. It's not rocket science to see that this world is not as God would want it to be. It's broken and distorted. But instead of simply noting that, we need to address that. We are still here to partially fix it.
  - Power through Prayer – **One of the more direct ways** that God wants to move through His people is through prayer. It's a **combination** of **asking** for God to intervene in the things **we don't understand fully**, and **commanding** it to be different in His name, on the things **we do understand**. One of the things that prayer is used for is **altering reality on God's behalf to get His outcome**. It's **utilizing our status** as children and ambassadors of God to operate in our power and authority He's given us.
    - A tip to increase prayer - If you want to increase your prayer life, start praying for everything that you see around you that **irritates** you, breaks your heart, disappoints you, or is obviously not the way that God wants it. If we are going to use our critical attitudes and perspectives for anything it should be to launch prayer.
- Anointing and Authority for What? – **"Fixing" God's people** - Being God's witnesses and tangible presence on earth.
  - Testifiers - The Spirit transforms fear-filled disciples into bold witnesses for the Kingdom. Often we are **nervous** to share the Lord because we are afraid of how we will look. Other times we are **afraid** to share because we don't feel like we know what we are talking about. A sure-fire way to become bold is to become an expert in what God is doing in US, and then sticking with what we know, our testimony, our story. **We don't have to be pastors, we need to be witnesses**. It's one thing to be an evangelist for a philosophy or a worldview, it's another thing to be an evangelist about personal transformation and miracle in our own lives. No one can argue us out of our own story.
  - Under the guidance of God – One of our introductory stories was the Holy Spirit guiding **Philip the Evangelist** to minister to the Ethiopian official in the chariot. Philip could have talked to a ton of people that had no interest in hearing the gospel, but **he was so sensitive to God that he was able to be directed, specifically, to that man who was being called by God and seeking God**. Part of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives is being led to do His things, in His timing.

### Conclusion

- There are things to do. **We come here to Church to get equipped and dialed in to the Mission and then we go out there and get it done.**
- **The church is not built by effort but by empowerment** – I am less interested in more Christians working harder and burning out, than Christians empowered and **using that power and authority with the Holy Spirit**. That's what's going to make a difference in our families, our region, and ultimately our nation.

- The Spirit's purpose is *not private experience but public mission*: "You will be my witnesses."