

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Principles of Power

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 2

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2271

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) In a world of pain and sorrow, the Church often seems unaware.
- b) God has empowered/anointed the Church to rescue the lost.
- c) God has a purpose and a power for His church in these days.
- d) Jesus promised to be with us always.
- e) There has never been a greater day to preach the Gospel than today.
 - i) Our Mandate has not changed. The Great Commission is in full effect. (Matthew 28:20)
 - ii) Our Master has not changed. (Hebrews 13:8)
 - iii) Our Message has not changed. (Jude 3) We don't need a new Gospel.
 - iv) Our Methods have not changed. We share the message through:
 - (1) Prayer
 - (2) Holy Spirit anointing
 - (3) Sharing
 - (4) Witnessing
 - (5) Soul-winning
 - (6) Giving
 - (7) Loving
 - v) Mankind has not changed. He has always been totally depraved.
- f) It is an insult to God to say we cannot have revival.
 - i) Romans 5:20
 - ii) 1 John 4:4

2) THE ANSWER: GOD SENDING HIS HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2)

- a) God was demonstrating His Power.
- b) It happened on the Day of Pentecost, a Jewish feast day.
 - i) God invites us not to a famine but a feast.
- c) Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit would come and His disciples were commanded to wait for the fulfillment of the promise.
 - i) The coming of His power is symbolized. (Acts 2:2-3)
 - (1) Wind is a symbol in Scripture of the Holy Spirit.
 - (2) Fire is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) The coming of His power is vocalized. (Acts 2:4)
 - (1) The disciples spoke in other tongues.
 - (2) This was a sign to unbelieving Jews. (1 Corinthians 14:21-22)
 - (3) It affected all in Jerusalem who witnessed it. (Acts 2:5-11)
 - iii) The coming of His power is actualized.
- d) The abiding miracle of Pentecost is that men, women, boys and girls were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- e) Human beings now can actually become inhabited by the Holy Spirit.

3) THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF POWER

- a) The Holy Spirit is a promise to be received. (Acts 2:37-39)
 - i) The Holy Spirit is a promised gift—singular.

- (1) The Bible here is not speaking of “the gifts,” plural, but of the Spirit Himself.
- ii) The Holy Spirit is promised to all believers.
- iii) Baptism is not a requirement for receiving the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Verse 38 is misunderstood and mistranslated by some.
 - (2) You come to Jesus “for” [Greek: *eis*] the remission of sins. Baptism does not remit sins.
 - (3) The preposition “for” [*eis*] can be translated two different ways, depending upon context in the sentence.
 - (a) It can mean “because of.”
 - (b) It can mean “in order to.”
 - (4) In this verse, in context the meaning of *eis* is “because of.”
 - (a) You are baptized because your sins have been remitted by Jesus Christ, not in order to remit them.
 - (b) Another example: Luke 11:32. The people of Nineveh, “*Repented at the preaching of Jonas.*” “Because of Jonah’s preaching.”
- iv) The Holy Spirit has already come - Day of Pentecost.
 - (1) We no longer have to “tarry” for Him.
 - (2) We no longer have to pray for Him (He has already been sent.)
 - (3) All we must do is receive him.
 - (4) If you are saved, born-again, you have already been given the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) Pentecost is an established fact.
 - (b) If you repented of your sins, you did receive the Holy Spirit of God.
- v) The Holy Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we have been born again.
 - (1) This is not based upon your emotional feelings. (“I don’t feel saved.”)
 - (2) Your emotions are the shallowest part of your nature.
 - (3) Salvation is the deepest work of God.
 - (4) God does not do His deepest work in our shallowest part.
 - (5) The Holy Spirit is the one who communicates the things of God.
 - (a) Your human spirit is the instrument of spiritual knowledge.
 - (b) The Holy Spirit speaks to your human spirit that you belong to God.
 - (c) It is not an emotional feeling, it is an awareness.
- vi) When you get saved, the Holy Spirit of God comes into you.
 - (1) Jesus in His physical body could not come into you.
 - (2) How else could Jesus come into you apart from the Holy Spirit?
- b) The Holy Spirit is a power to be released. (Acts 1:8)
 - i) It’s not physical, economic, or political power, but spiritual power.
 - ii) The power in verse 8 is the Greek word *dunamis*, from which we get our word “dynamite.”
 - iii) Even before the day of Pentecost, there are examples of the Holy Spirit’s power.

- (1) The Spirit of God “moved upon the face of the deep,” and chaos became cosmos. (Genesis 1:2)
 - (2) Mary, a virgin, became the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:35)
 - (3) By the Holy Spirit’s power, Jesus was raised from the dead. (Romans 8:11)
 - (4) By the Spirit’s power, Simon Peter, who had been cowering in fear at Jesus’ arrest and trial, became transformed and addressed the crowds gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:14-22)
 - iv) God wants the same power to be released in your heart and life.
 - (1) Sometimes we think we have to work to be good and prove to God we are good enough for Him to give us His Spirit.
 - (2) Quit trying to make yourself worthy We are not worthy of anything. (1 Corinthians 4:7)
 - (3) Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness.
 - (4) But we cannot come with hands full of sin and expect God to fill us. Repent.
 - c) The Holy Spirit is a person to be recognized. (Acts 2:12-18)
 - i) Peter refused to take credit for what God was doing.
 - ii) Peter gave all credit to God’s Spirit working.
 - iii) Sometimes when God starts working, people start taking credit for it.
 - iv) When the Spirit begins working in a church, if the people take credit for it, that will kill their church. (Isaiah 42:8)
 - v) When we start taking credit for what God does, it stops.
 - vi) If you expect your life to win others to Christ, you are sadly mistaken.
 - (1) The unsaved are not saved by viewing your life.
 - (2) They’re saved by Jesus’ death.
 - (3) You must say, “A Person, Jesus, has changed my life.” (Joel 2:28)
 - (4) God will not share His glory with anyone else. (Isaiah 42:8)
 - d) When a church demonstrates the power of the Holy Spirit, 3 things will happen:
 - i) There will be amazement. Some people will be amazed.
 - ii) There will be amusement. Some will laugh or mock. (Acts 2:13)
 - iii) There will be acknowledgement. (Acts 2:41) Some will acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior.
- 4) CONCLUSION
- a) Question: Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10

- iii) Romans 10:13
- iv) Acts 16:31
- v) John 3:16