

Acts 1:4-11 Defining Qualities of the Early Church

If someone suddenly gave you 2 million dollars - would you sit on it or put it to use?

A) Grocery shopping lately? Crazy right? - come home with 2-small bags - Spouse - How much? \$100

B) What did you buy - Prime Rib? - No just essentials

C) Now if Someone gives you - \$2 million dollars and you are still eating MAC cheese and beans and rice for dinner -

1) something wrong with that picture

Or let's say someone gave you an unlimited gas card - for the next year - fill up anytime you want free of charge - just put it on the card?

A) Are you going to think twice about - going somewhere? -

B) Right now we do right - think twice about a road trip right - **calculating - I don't know**

1) **Gas card - pack the car babe - hitting the road**

C) Some of us right now are trying to suck every ounce out of our tank - per fill up right?

1) Some days literally running on fumes - I think I can make it another day

D) How foolish would that be if we had an unlimited gas card? -

1) not only are we filling up whenever we want - we are inviting our friends and family to meet us at the pump - **Come on Down!**

Spiritually speaking - We have been given the greatest source of power known to man -

A) And yet many of us are constantly running on fumes spiritually

B) We don't use the power that has been given to us through God

C) Two men at Niagara falls **no the greatest unused power in the world today is the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.**

D) We try to serve God and follow God in our own strength

Today I want us to see 3 qualities of the Early Church - that shaped their perspective and affected the way that they lived and approached life -

A) Three qualities that made them so impactful

#1 They had a Kingdom mindset.

#2 They had a dependency the Holy Spirit.

#3 They were looking for Jesus to return.

B) Last week we looked at V.1-3 intro - 12 people made professions of faith -

C) Met Luke the writer - Gospel of Luke - wrote to his friend Theophilus

The focus of the gospel of Luke - was to give an account of all that Jesus **BEGAN** to do and **TEACH.**

A) **PHYSICAL BODY** - here in his earthly ministry.

B) The Book of Acts is the Continuation of the ministry of Jesus - this time Through his mystical body - **THE CHURCH**- body of Christ

C) **NOTED** Started with this group of 120 people - upper room - who were radically impacted by the reality of the Resurrection.

D) Saw Jesus die - buried - tomb sealed - Roman guards - **3 days later they saw him alive - Risen from the dead.**

1) they had to spread the news to everyone.

There was one thing we didn't mention last week that I want to start our study with today.

A) After the Resurrection Jesus spent 40 days meeting with his disciples - eating - talking - sharing - teaching

B) Our text tells us there was something specific on his mind. V.3 again

3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

C) This is first Quality of the early church that I want us to see today - they had **A Kingdom mindset**

Jesus spent the 40 days between his Resurrection and Ascension talking to them about The Kingdom of God

A) But that wasn't NEW - during his earthly ministry - JESUS Talked more about the Kingdom of God than anything else.

B) He described a Kingdom that was radically different from the Kingdoms of this world.

C) One where leaders led by love and not force,
1) one where leaders SERVED instead of DEMANDING to be served.

Jesus would declare **I didn't come to be served but to serve and give my life a ransom for many.**

Jesus would say: **The rulers of the world seek to lord their authority over others - but I say - he who wants to be first - let him be last/ the servant of all.**

D) Jesus described a King and Kingdom where those in leadership would leverage their power and authority to come under others

1) to build them up and help them to be who God intended them to be.

The Kingdom of Jesus also had a NOW and NOT YET aspect to it.

A) He said the Kingdom of God is among you. - Why? because the King was among them - NOW!!!

B) But he also said - to Pilate - my kingdom is not of this world -

C) And He spoke of coming to set up his kingdom here on earth -

D) This now and not yet aspect is something the Disciples didn't really understand - while Jesus was alive

1) And they didn't even understand this initially after his death - We shall see.

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, **but**

to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **(Come back to this in a minute)**

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

Here is what the Disciples thought about the Kingdom of Jesus -

A) He was coming to drive out the Romans and restore Israel to the former glory under David and Solomon.

B) This is what they were asking - **will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? Make Israel great again**

C) Can't You see them printing **hats and t-shirts - LETS DO THIS!**

1) Their focus was national - not eternal - their focus was now - temporal -

D) Notice Jesus doesn't say - You guys got this all wrong -

1) my Kingdom is not of this world and you are not understanding Bible Prophecy

No these men knew the OT scriptures

A) They Knew the Messiah was going to come and set up a Kingdom that would have no end

B) OT Scriptures prophesied of the Messiah ruling from Jerusalem - the territory of Israel

C) And the Scriptures declared how the people of Israel will have a role to play in the Millennial reign of the Messiah

1) SO that is what they are wondering - IS IT THAT TIME

D) Jesus says **no it is not that time - That is still a part of the plan -**

1) but there is something else that is going to happen first

The thing that they were going to come to understand is that the Kingdom of Jesus was bigger than that.

A)The Kingdom of Jesus is first concerned with individual hearts/ lives -

B)the overall lostness of mankind. - THE CROSS

C)These men and the early church as a whole would come to live with a Kingdom of Jesus first mindset.

D)That is the same way that Jesus wants us to live.

E)**SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD** - **FIRST** is the keyword

1)Make this the priority and focus - let this shape your life

So many people spend so much of their time and effort seeking to build their own kingdoms -

A)Sometime we call it today (Our Brands) Our legacy

B)But so often we are building things and spending all our effort on things that have no eternal value

1)Things that are not going to last beyond this life - this place

C)Jesus wants us to live with a different mindset - Prayer - **Our father who is in heaven - Hallowed be your name** - (Honored above all else!)

D)**Your kingdom come - your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

E)It is the desire to see the Kingdom of heaven - invade the Kingdom of this earth. -

1)Starts with our lives individually.

So- The early church was Kingdom minded!

A)Jesus wants us to be kingdom minded as well

B)That means we try to live each day - Jesus is our King - we are concerned about HIS KINGDOM - above - OUR KINGDOM

C)HERE TO PROMOTE - his kingdom - bring others into his kingdom -

1)not trying to align them with our Kingdom

D)We live, with his kingdom in view, we use our money, our possessions, and our time with his Kingdom in view.

1)We set our priorities - our politics, the way we vote, - with his kingdom in view

E)That is how the early church learned to live. -

F)We will see this Kingdom mindset throughout our study in the book of Acts -

1)It is going to challenge us

But the thing that Jesus wanted them to realize from the start, was in order for them to live for his Kingdom

A) they were going to need power - that was beyond them.

B)This brings us to the 2nd quality of the early church that we want to discuss today - **They lived with a dependency upon the Holy Spirit**

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

C) You shall be witnesses - to me - **Not going witnessing - important** - BE WITNESSES -

1)Living breathing - testimonies of me - my heart - my love - my grace - my standards

Jesus used the term - Lights shining in the Darkness

A)Being the church in a broken world - BEING

B)Ambassadors - We are representing a different Kingdom.

This is interesting to me that even though the apostles had been trained personally by Jesus for 3 yrs

A)That wasn't enough

B)After his Resurrection - Jesus gave the disciples the great commission - **Go into all the world - preaching gospel -making disciples - all nations**

C)But before they could really do that and fulfill that calling - they needed something

Jesus calls it in V.5 the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

A) This was a new concept that Jesus was sharing with them. v.8 He defines it as the Holy Spirit coming upon them.

B) What does it mean – how happen?

C) To understand what this means - consider the 3 fold work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life- / John 14

Final night before the Cross

V.15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. {Big ask right? - Can I really do that?} Yes and here is why- 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus told his disciples that he was leaving them.

A) The good news for these men is that they would not lose Jesus.

B) **Not leave them orphans. I will come to you** - He would stay with them in another way: Send His Spirit

1) Says **Another Helper** = Another of the same Kind. – Just like Him

C) The Spirit of Jesus - the Holy Spirit - 3rd person of the triune Godhead

D) Not a power or a force - he has attributes - he can be grieved - have Joy

E) He is not a force or a power, but he does supply believers with a power.

Notice what Jesus says about the HS in V. 17 a - He is WITH you & He shall be IN You

A) This is the 3 Fold work - With / In / Upon –

B) three different Greek words - describing 3 different aspects of his relationship with people.

C) What is the function of the Holy Spirit **WITH** a person?

Ch.16:7-11 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 "And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin, & of righteousness, & of judgment:** 9 "of sin, because they **do not believe in Me;** 10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father & you see Me no more; 11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

A) According to this/ The **first Job** of the Holy Spirit is to Convict the World of Sin - Sin separates us from God

B) If you are NOT a Christian today – Holy Spirit is working on your Heart.

C) Conviction – You are a sinner / need a Savior / Only way Escape Judgement {**WOONG YOU**}

John 14:17 He shall be IN YOU– Indwelling us

A) He indwells us when we put our faith in Jesus - the Cross and Resurrection

B) When You believe - The Spirit of Jesus comes to reside in our lives -

1) Paul referred to it in Ephesians 3:17 the Holy Spirit would dwell - be at home in your hearts through faith

C) What does the indwelling work of the HS look like?

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide** you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and **declare** it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:13-15

A) Guiding, teaching, declaring and glorifying Jesus -

B) Teaching, guiding and declaring all carry the idea of instruction and application.

1) Bringing God's word to light in our hearts

C)Remember how confusing and boring the Bible was before you became a follower of Jesus

D)Paul said this is spiritual book - spiritually discerned -

1)Before putting our faith in Jesus - spiritually dead - separated from God

Once we believed in the gospel and put our faith in Jesus

A)Our spirit comes to life - brought into relationship with God

B)The Holy Spirit - connects with our spirit to bring God's word alive in our lives - we can't get enough -

1)Things that made no sense - make sense -

**C) His ministry in our hearts – Galatians 4:6
Draws us into Intimacy – Crying out Abba Father**

D) Helper: One called alongside to help – help us walk with God and live for Jesus – John 14:15

❖ **Teaches us God's Word** – John 14:26

❖ **Guide us in the truth** John 16:12

E) So when did the Holy Spirit indwell the Apostles?

John 20:19-22 - Turn there

A)This is after the Resurrection - meeting secretly because of fear - opposition - their leader has just been killed.

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

B) No one was saved before the Cross – right – Jesus had not yet died for sin.

C)They see him – believe - Born again here — He is the real deal!

V.22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

D)THEY WERE INDWELT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathed on them - Breath is symbolic of life

A)Genesis 2:7 God formed man and breathed life into his nostrils

B)Jesus was breathing life into them spiritually

C)The manifestation of the Life was the Holy Spirit was now residing in their hearts - HE WAS NOW IN THEM

**BUT THERE IS MORE! - Turn back to Acts 1
8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

A)We will see when this occurs in Acts 2 -

B)50 days later on the day of Pentecost they receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

C)Different from Water Baptism/ - Have you Been Baptized with the Holy Spirit?

1)Yes at church in the tub in August - no

D)That is water Baptism - Something you do - declaring of your faith

E)You are baptized IN water You do -

Jesus Baptizes WITH the Holy Spirit - Something Jesus does in your life.

A)Jesus uses the term baptism - because it connects us with the idea of Immersion

B)Fully immersed - Listen - the Baptism with the HS - is not you getting more of the Holy Spirit - he is in you.

C)The Baptism with the Hs - is not you getting more of him

1)It is the Holy Spirit getting more of you -

Think of it this way - Ocean

A)Feet - in the ocean - not fully the ocean doesn't have all of me - feet - control

B)Knee deep - didn't have all of you - not moving you -

1)waist deep - still

C)Overhead - now it has all of me!! the current is pulling me -

1)The waves are propelling me - a speed that is more than what I could do on my own

D)Sail boat - Same amount of wind - All of the sail!

E)So the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit gets all of you and comes UPON you to empower you to be witnesses

1)To LIVE FOR JESUS!

We will see that there was a remarkable difference that occurred in the lives of the Early Church - after they were baptized with the Holy Spirit

A)First change was boldness - they went from being afraid - cowards

B)Peter Denies - Jesus 3x/ All the Disciples flee

C)Acts 2 after baptized with the Spirit - together as ONE - PETER is preaching in front of 3,000 people - you crucified...

D)The followers of Jesus also received gifts from the Holy Spirit - that enabled them to serve the Lord more effectively -

E)So there was a power, a boldness and gifting that affected their lives

Not a ONE TIME THING! -

A)The disciples are baptized with the Spirit on the day of Pentecost - (See in a few weeks)

B)But then we will read - several more times - them being filled with the Holy Spirit

C)Another way of saying they were empowered again -

1)or empowered afresh and anew for the moment at hand.

D)They lived with this - awareness of their need to be dependent upon the Holy Spirit

1)constantly empowered to do what Jesus called them to do.

E)To BE who Jesus called them to BE

WE need to live with that same kind of dependency upon the Holy Spirit as well. Same empowering and gifting

➤ **"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."**
Ephesians 5:18

A)Filled is literally continually being filled! - Constant

B)Paul says this - Right before starts talking about the roles of Husbands and wives -

1)parents and kids - employee's and employers

C)Before he starts talking about spiritual warfare and standing strong

D)Why? In order to be who Jesus has called us to be - we need to live continually dependent upon the Holy Spirit

E)Pray each day - empower me - fill me afresh

Notice Jesus also calls this the Promise of the Father V. 4 Wait for the Promise of the Father

A)This wasn't new - "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." - Luke 24:49

B)It is the promise of the Father - Our God is a good, good father - who keeps his promises

1)Who doesn't withhold anything necessary from his kids

In fact on this subject Jesus was Contrasting the fatherhood of God with the earthly dads - sinners - not always best motives

A)You try to meet the needs of your kids - you don't want to hold back things that your kids need.

B)You want to help your kids succeed

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your

heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" - Luke 11:13

C) In that statement Jesus gives us insight into how this baptism of the Holy Spirit happens - YOU ASK

YOU ADMIT - Lord I can't do this on my own.

A) Lord I can't be the Husband - the Wife -- the parent -

B) the follower of Jesus I want to be in my own strength - I need your help.

C) LORD I can't stand strong in battle in my own strength - I need your power

D) Fill me afresh today - with your power and strength.

Are you running on fumes today - The power of God is available to you today to empower you to live for Jesus

A) Need Boldness ? Come to him - ask him - admit that to him

B) Struggling in your marriage - your parenting - Ask him to empower you

C) Maybe this is new to you - never heard of this baptism with the HS

1) Trying to live the Christian life in your own strength

D) You need to be baptized today with the Holy spirit - empowered

E) Give you an opportunity to be prayed for in a minute.

Quickly one more quality - that defined the early church

A) read there in V.9-10 that after Jesus said these things he ascended up into heaven -

B) They are standing there mesmerized looking into the sky - what just happened - is he coming back?

V.10b - behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus,

who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

C) One more quality that defined the early church - their belief in the imminent return of Jesus

1) Jesus could come back at any moment

Peter wrote 1 Peter 4:7 the end of all things is at hand.

A) John wrote about the soon appearing of Jesus

B) Paul wrote about the rapture of the Church

1) The writer of the Book of Hebrews wrote about the day of the Lord approaching

C) The return of Jesus was a theme that was on their minds that - created in them an urgency to fulfill their mission

D) To be ALL IN FOR JESUS -

This Wednesday night our Prophecy update - Puzzle pieces in place

A) Two men Noah and Lot who were last days believers -

B) One is a picture of how we are to live and the other is a picture of how not to live

C) Today - Pray for you who want to be empowered