

Intro: Good Morning Church.

Some of you know that, when I 18 I worked as a blaster on a Strip Mine in Grand Cache. You need to know that when you are the Blaster - not only do you get to play with explosives and blow-up stuff. But you are given quite a bit of respect from those around you. So, at the age of 18, I was in a situation where even the General Manager of the mine would listen when I spoke. Then, they hired a new General Manager, who wanted everyone to know that he was the supreme boss - and could do whatever he wanted.

I still remember one afternoon as I pushed the plungers down, and felt the ground move as 60,000 lbs. of explosives went off. Once that happened my job, once the smoke cleared, was to walk unto the blast sight to make sure all was clear/safe.

As I was walking unto the blast sight with the beautiful aroma of burned sulphur still in the air - I noticed that right at my elbow walked this new General Manager. So, I told him it was unsafe for him to be there, and he should leave. He told me he was boss and then where '*I could go*' if I didn't like his coming with me so we walked on together. As we stepped unto the blast sight something happened that I had never experienced before. It would seem that we had blasted over an empty underground stream. That meant that instead of the power(fire) from the blast splitting the rock - it had traveled down into an underground riverbed. And as we walked unto the blast sight, the flame from the explosion turned and began coming back up those same underground stream beds toward us. Instantly, out of the blast holes fire, much like that of a blow torch in columns of fire 2 feet across and 10/12 ft. high began to appear. The fire torches blew around us popping with a puffing sound. Despite the fact that I was terrified I looked over at the general manager and smiled - for he had turned ghastly white and began scrambling over the rock debris heading off the blast site as fast as he could run. From that day on, he never hassled me again and all it took was a little smirk to make him treat me well. That picture from the blast site often comes to mind when I think of the Holy Spirit. There we were, standing on that blast site thinking there

was no power in the ground when in reality right below us was this swirling powerful fire just ready to break through and astound us.

This morning, as we continue to look at the Holy Spirit we need to look at the idea of POWER. For you remember that Christ say in **Acts 1:8** "*but you will receive POWER when the H.S. comes upon you.*" The term used here for power is the same word which is used for '**dynamite**' –so it has the idea that when the HS enters our lives we will receive/ or be able to walk in some of the power of God. We saw a glimpse of that last week when we saw God's Spirit in the Old and NT portrayed as a Powerful Wind/ Burning fire and Enabling Power that was delivered at Pentecost in a jaw dropping way.

What is that power like? **Rom. 8:11** The kind of power that dwells in you is the same power which **blasted Jesus from the tomb.** {Stop: do you see what it is saying the same power that blasted the Rock from the front of the tomb/ the same power that breath Eternal life back into Jesus - and then powered Jesus' body and caused him to walk out of the tomb IS IN YOU. The Scripture says that is what you/ inherit as we are Baptized in/under the H.S. literally that is what is LIVING IN YOU

Review:

1. **God desire is to Comfort us** as the HS enters our lives. **Jn. 14:16** says *"I will ask the father and He will give you another comforter and he will be with you forever."* It is saying that as we allow the Spirit of God to be a part of our lives, He will whisper advice into our minds through his HS. It is that still small voice that helps you make decisions/ who at times bugs you when you would rather not do what is right/ and who in the middle of struggle whispers *I am here – God still has a plan you will make it through.* He is one who brings peace when your world feels like it is about to fall apart or brings the exact right words to mind as we comfort a friend/ or teach a class or speak on another person's behalf in prayer.
2. **God's desire is to Endome us** with his HS. As we saw last week from **Acts 1:5** it says *"I will baptize with the HS"*

In other words, He is saying that He will put you under His power. God desires to place itty bitty US – under the large powerful fire of the HS.

So that as we stay under the Dome of his presence, He can empower us to *be all he wants us to be – and do all He wants us to do.*

3. God's desire is to give us His Gifts. We will be talking about this next week. But to be honest, unless we are willing to walk in God's POWER, we are wasting our time even talking about the gifts of the Spirit. For if you find your areas of giftedness and you attempt to use your own human strength and ability as you use that gift. We are setting ourselves up for failure. ill: I always found it strange that when we were learning to use the gift of preaching - that we spend 99% of our time was spent learning methods/techniques and very little about how to sit alone with God and ask what He wants to tell His church family on Sunday. And so, on Sunday often we get wonderfully crafted sermons that lack the breath of God that leave us cold. (*I have never heard a sermon I didn't get something from but I have had a few close calls'*)

If we are to be **biblical** > as *Christians by definition*> are to be Charismatic = *to be blown along by the HS* -- In other words as we are Endomed by His spirit God wants us to blow us along with his Dynamite power of the HS. So, our role is to make sure the Anchors are up so God is free to fill us/ move us/ use us.

... So somehow we need to grasp that ...

I. God's desire to Empower Us

As I read the scriptures I am amazed at how often the term power is used. It occurs **144** times in the NT. As I was studying these verses this past week, I was surprised >> not only at what they were saying but how direct the statements were. If we are to be biblical Christians, we need to take very seriously what the Word says regarding POWER:

1. The Bible tells us ...We should expected that God's presence and Power will be part of our daily experience

In **I Cor. 4:20** -Paul says, "*The Kingdom of God is not a matter of **talk** - but of Power*". Quite a statement. Where we may be all talk ...God says "*You will see I back up all my words with MY POWER. You remember last week we looked at **Acts 3:11,12,16** > the first miracle in the brand in NT church. A man was healed in an instant. The very 1st. comment that Peter made after healing the disabled person*

was "Hey, did I do it ? Actually no, You see I have this new relationship with God and it was His power that pulled this off." **Something new** had happened Peter knew he was no longer doing life/ ministry alone somehow; he was NOW doing life with the power of the God who was personally present.

And yet sometimes I feel like **Matt. 22:29** - describes me when it says ...*'You are in error - because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God'* (Mk. 12:24)- What Jesus is saying, IF God's Spirit is in you/I doesn't it make sense that the result will be that along with a knowledge of Jesus .. should also be a noticeable presence of his power in our lives as well?

Think of last week's picture again, if we are Baptized/ Immersed in God. No matter how we feel/ **somewhere within your/my reach is the Comforter's whisper/ and the power of our Saviour.**

2. The Bible tells us that the Power is placed in our lives for a Reason

Acts 1:8 > *'you will receive the power ... when his Spirit comes upon you.'* **Why?** You know the rest of the verse > So when you share your faith with others – your words will speak volumes more than we thought they would// your words will touch places in people's hearts that you didn't even know existed so that others will want Jesus in their lives as well.

Why? I John 4:4 *'the one who is in YOU is greater than the one who is in the world'* That is a power statement. God places His power in us so that when we meet in our Small Groups for Prayer, we aren't just gumming words we are wrestling on behalf of others and applying God's power to their situations.

Why? Because **life struggles/ ministry can be exciting and draining.** Do you remember the story in **Lk. 8** when in the midst of a crowd a lady touched Jesus and his comment in **:46** was that *"Jesus turned and said, power has come out of me"* The power in Jesus was so tangible that that Jesus could feel it surge out of him as he was touched - and the healing took place. In the very next chapter, we find Jesus using the exact terminology - only this time -- he bestowed this same power (the dynamite of the Spirit) on his disciple **Lk 9:1,2**, the result was that as they returned from a weekend ministry, they said things like **Lk.10:17,18**. They found that as they walked in his spirit His power was there and miracles happened. And I will bet that they also felt drained because **'the Spirit on the body can be tiring on the body.** The point is > God wants to place His power in you/I so that His power can flow into our lives

and then flow out of us into the lives of others. That means that you will need to keep coming back to the power source for new infusions of power.

Why?? look at **I Cor. 2:4,5; 4:20** >God's idea is that as He Endomes us with HIS HS- that the words we speak regarding our Jesus will be backed by his power... and people will say *"My heart is moved by their words and their words were confirmed by the presence of God in their lives for I saw His power lived out in their lives"*

*ill.** Dream with Fred {Lk. 24:32 'Our hearts was strangely moved'*

Bottom line> if we sum up what these verses have been saying it is that our faith is not to be just a matter of talk (or gathering knowledge) alone but it's **also** needs to be a matter of power.

II. What is the Power to be like?

After the Spirit came bringing with Him the Power of God - to indwell the believers the book of ACTS tells us of miracle after miracle. People were healed/ people heard God speak to them and direct them/ people like Paul who was left for dead got up and walked away/ as people preached to total strangers who heard the word of God and were saved. It was amazing.

Right **here is where most people want to back off** and stop this discussion when it comes to walking in the power of God. For they are convinced that they know exactly what the preacher is going to say next. They are sure he will say... IF you are Really Spiritual — and you walk in the power of God you will always feel pumped you will never feel weak. And in the midst of worry you will always have a clear word from the Lord. And if you lay hands on anyone they should always be healed.// **BUT**, because we **know from experience** that isn't the way it has worked in our own lives >> this is where most of us shut down and don't want to go any farther when it comes to talking about living in the Power of God. PLEASE HEAR ME the bible doesn't back up that kind of theology at all.

Instead at times we find **Peter** and the new Spirit filled church confused about what they should do next. We find the **Christians** winning in some areas and yet desperately failing in other areas. What we see is these **great people** who love Jesus experiencing times they can see tangible results of God's power flowing through them in powerful way AND at other times they struggle to overcome being too timid

(Timothy)/ struggling with knowing exactly what to do. They have Flashes of brilliance followed by times of less than stellar actions.

Why???? because **THEY are LIKE US** – i) are not always ready to let go of some sin, ii) not always ready to let God have all of their lives, iii) not always ready to step out in faith, iv) they get busy 'doing life' and v) because sometimes the stuff of life knocks the wind out of us...

Because **like us** – they were humans stumbling heavenward.

ill: Make this personal >> Michelle's birth/ Dad's Parkinson's (Choose Both)

*You see: If you walk in the Spirit, you won't always feel powerful - or feel this great pumped feeling all the time. Or get your prayers answered just as you want them to be. If that wasn't true, why would God have to remind Paul 3xs that his grace was sufficient? This powerful man of God - at times suffered a lack of faith and feelings of weakness and desire to be physically healed. Yet he had this 'thorn in the flesh' that didn't leave - no matter how much his friends prayed for him and how much they loved him. So, God had to remind him "my grace is sufficient" > **Know that is what God is saying to Paul and wants to say to you and I is "I desire to empower you – I desire to take what you think I can do in your life and add more I desire to walk with you in what you are walking through right now I desire to give you more. And I am with you through the Highs and Lows of life So, relax in me.***

Having said that There is no question in my mind that God is clearly saying I want to let the power of my spirit flow through you and out into your lives in more power. There is no question in my mind that we often stand in the way of that power getting out. But there is also no question that no matter where we are in our spiritual walk God has more power available to us than we are presently experiencing.

Listen to **Eph. 3:16-21**

This is why I have taken you on this journey today. I want to remind you/me what the bible teaches. That when the Holy Spirit was given to you/me— that 'our personal expectations' of what God can/ SVBC can do can never be the 'glass ceiling' we live under. Instead, Jesus wants us to re-imagine what God's view of SVBC potential can be and what He can do in/through us.

Question:

How would you face life differently if you believe what you believe.

1. That God's powerful Holy Spirit was Present in all you face in life?
2. That if God called you into a specific challenge or ministry) that His Power will go with you?
3. That God's dreams for SVBC future will be accompanied by His Resurrection Power?

You know this there is nothing like the aliveness you feel when you attempt to walk in the power of God. And that is not something that God wants to give only a few Christians. His desire is that we will increasingly experience times when we feel His smile upon us and His power active within us. – as we minister in the kitchen of the church// care for a friend// visit a friend who needs us to pray for their care or healing/ pray over our children or teach a class. And as we are open *He wants to come and blow the power of His Spirit through you so you can enjoy the aliveness/ exhilaration of seeing God's power flow through you to others.*

Let's Make this more Practical...

...how can you/I practically apply this in our lives?

1. When you are praying for someone else, pray what you see. I always struggled with how to pray in God's will - for another person. Until. I started closing my eyes — and asking God to show me pictures of how to pray for them and that is what I pray for them. (while I don't always get it right .. I have found this helpful.
2. Listen to the Lord's **whisper** as you pray/ as you are in a place where you need his advice. For Jesus said in Jn. 10:27-28 it says, '*My sheep will hear my voice*' So, get quiet and listen for his whisper through - His still small voice/ the scriptures/other words. (if needed - ask for clarification
3. Obey the Dreams you receive. If they are repeated more than once/ if they have the 'feel of God on them' pray and ask him if you should follow them. Obey Quickly - or you will miss out.
4. Start your day by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide (Endome) you in all you will experience that day.
5. Remember 'the Battle is the Lord's - Remember you are not alone.

6. **Final...so *What*.** *What small thing can we do this week to live a little more in the power of the Holy Spirit?* This morning let's close by telling the Holy Spirit that you are open to let him use you in some exciting ways and then watch what he will do in and through you.