

CALLED OUT

To Life In The Spirit

Lisa Peters

Acts 1:4-8 NLT

Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Why did Jesus say you **WILL** receive power? Were there not great displays of power throughout the Old Testament and the Gospels?

"Of course many people experienced the Spirit's presence on and in them but it appears to be limited to those in conventional, mediatorial positions such as leaders, judges, kings, and prophets."

~ Dr. Mark Boda

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a journey through the book of ACTS

February 22
2015

Acts 2:1-18

There are 3 important things to understand from this passage:

1. *Who* experienced the filling of the Spirit... (Joel 2 fulfillment)

2. *How* the filling of the Spirit came about...

Acts 2:33 NLT

Now he [Jesus] is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him [Jesus] the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

3. *What* the deeper work taking place was...

Acts 2:37-38 NLT

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was available to certain people at certain times, but after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit now takes up residency in all believers at all times.

God can't fill what God can't have.
~ A.W. Tozer

The filling of the Holy Spirit is first and foremost about _____.

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,



The church-wide Prayer Summit will be an opportunity to pray together and celebrate all that God has done. People of all ages and at all stages of their personal prayer journey are encouraged to come - there will be opportunities for all to participate in ways with which they are comfortable.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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1. How are you are finding the 40 Day Prayer Challenge so far? What has God been encouraging and/or challenging you with?
2. What from this Sunday's message stood out to you?
3. Read Acts 1:1-8. Why do you think Jesus made the disciples wait for his promised gift of the Holy Spirit? What was being formed in them? How has God used waiting in prayer in your own life?
4. a. Read Acts 2:1-4. What do you think is the relationship between waiting on God in prayer and the infilling of power that he pours out on his people - both in Acts and also today?
b. Where in your own life and experience have you witnessed this incredible correlation between waiting on God and the Holy Spirit's empowerment and enabling?
5. Recap your understanding from Pastor Lisa's message, the difference in how the Holy Spirit interacted with God's people before Pentecost (Old Testament times) and after Pentecost (New Testament). Why is this such a profound, game-changing shift? Why is it significant that ALL believers have received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
6. What do you envision a local church that has surrendered itself to God and is experiencing the Holy Spirit's empowering and enabling to look like? Feel like? Share examples of where you see the Spirit actively at work within the life of St. Albert Alliance (and be sure to praise God for it!)
7. Spend some time in listening prayer, asking Jesus, "Where are you asking me to surrender more of my life to you?" Journal, share with the group and then pray for each other.
8. Spend some time praying for our church family, that we might surrender more fully to God so we can be fully filled and empowered by the Spirit.