



For the First Time, Again: Recharged

Text: John 14:16-18

Founding Pastor Ken Werlein

1. Read John 14:16-30.
 - a. Why does Jesus indicate that He is sending the Spirit?
 - b. In relation to keeping the commands of Christ, what is the Spirit's role?
 - c. What are the desires of the Spirit?
 - d. Why can the world not receive the Holy Spirit? What must one do to receive the Holy Spirit?
 - e. What else will the Holy Spirit do for us (verse 26)?
 - f. Read carefully verse 30 and 31. What truths can you find in them? What do these truths mean to you?
 - g. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in these ways?
 - h. Why is what Jesus said about the Spirit (John 14:16, 26) so important for understanding the personal nature of the Holy Spirit?

2. Read Acts 2:2-3. Jesus's promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14; Acts 1), comes to reality in the second chapter of the book of Acts in what is called Pentecost. (See Study Deeper for more information).
 - a. How is the filling and presence of the Holy Spirit described?
 - b. Examine Exodus 13 and Ezekiel 1, what is the significance of the Spirit appearing and being described in this way?
 - c. How would you describe the experiences you have had when you were filled with the Holy Spirit? Can you relate to Ken's description of feeling recharged? What was that like?

3. Read Galatians 5:24-26.
 - a. What does Paul indicate is imperative to living by the Spirit?
 - b. What are the two things that he states must be relinquished?
 - c. Living by the Spirit, means we must relinquish control and surrender to His will in our lives each day. When you think about your daily life, where is it hard for you to surrender? Where do you find yourself desiring to call the shots?

4. Read Ephesians 5:15-21.
 - a. Using the context clue of the negative command in verse 18, what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
 - b. What does Paul say in verse 19-21 will characterize the life that is filled with the Spirit?

- c. Why do you think being filled with the Spirit manifests itself in these ways?
- d. If you were honest with yourself, would you say that you are leading a life that is filled with the Spirit? Do you see the sort of heart and fruit referenced in the passages above?
- e. If you were to be honest with yourself, what are you filling yourself with? How does the amount of time that you spend engaging in the sort of spiritual practices in the passages above compare to the amount of time that you spend thinking about and filling yourself with other things, things that may not be bad things but that don't lead to a life filled with the Spirit?

Challenge: What is one practical and specific step that you can take this week to seek to be filled with the Spirit? Share that with your group so that you can encourage one another throughout the week and hold each other accountable.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, I know that I've been born of the Spirit, sealed by the Spirit and am indwelt by the Holy Spirit. That is why asking you for a fresh work of the Spirit in my life is an easy thing to do. You are quintessentially generous—the most bighearted and openhanded Father imaginable. You won't give us snakes and scorpions, when we ask; but grace and more grace, and still more grace! Hallelujah, many times over!

So Father, not doubting your promise one bit; and, without shame or hesitation, acknowledging my own need, I ask for a fresh stirring and filling of your Holy Spirit. Several things motivate me to ask for a new work of the Spirit in my life.

I know that, apart from your Spirit, I can't believe the gospel and love Jesus, the way I want to. So Father, by the power that raised him from the dead, free me from my under-believing and over-compensating. Open the eyes of my heart to see more of Jesus. Dazzle me with His delights; buckle my knees with his beauty; put me face down on the ground from a renewed awareness of his glory and grace; grant me jaw-dropping wonder and awe, in response to Jesus' majesty and mercy of Jesus, and the perfection and completion of his work for us.

Grant me power, with all your children, to know the height, depth, width and breadth of Jesus's love—a love that surpasses knowledge; the only love that is better than life; the only love that is enough. You've poured out His love into my heart before; do it again, and again and again. May the love of Jesus be the most compelling and propelling force in my life; turning my whining into worship; my timidity into fearless faith; small dreams into a kingdom vision; my hesitation to risk much, into a life of gospel adventures.

By the grave-robbing, kingdom-advancing, Christ-exalting power of the Holy Spirit, restore to me the joy of your incomparable salvation; renew my love for the beauty and freedom of holiness; and intensify my awareness and excitement about the occupied throne of heaven.

Indeed, Father, you ARE working in all things for your glory and our good; and you ARE working all things together after the counsel of your will; and you ARE summing up all things in Christ. Hallelujah, what a Savior, Jesus is; hallelujah, what a salvation He has won for us! So very amen I pray, in Jesus exalted and awesome name!

<https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/scottysmith/2013/09/22/a-prayer-for-a-fresh-stirring-and-filling-of-the-holy-spirit/>

STUDY DEEPER

5 Things the Holy Spirit Accomplished at Pentecost

It is true that trusting in Christ has made us holy, but that it is an alien righteousness. In other words, it is a righteousness that belongs to Christ, but as an act of God's grace, it is attributed to us. But to effectively serve Christ in the world, we must not merely be called holy; we must actually be holy. This is why Jesus told the apostles before His ascension to wait in Jerusalem "until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). At His ascension He repeated this, saying, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were all gathered together in an upper room. Suddenly there was a sound of wind and fire, and they were all "filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4). This is a very important event in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. Pentecost is the event whereby the Holy Spirit comes in full power to enable Christians who have been declared righteous to actually be righteous. It is not that the Day of Pentecost itself makes the church righteous, but this is the beginning of the full ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. Here are some of the key things that took place because of the Holy Spirit's outpouring on the Day of Pentecost and beyond.

1) Pentecost reveals the work of a triune God in our salvation.

Pentecost is the day when God clearly demonstrates that salvation and redemption are the work of the triune God. The Father is the source, the initiator, and the final goal of all the redemptive acts of God. The Son is the embodiment of the mission of God. The work of salvation is accomplished through His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The Holy Spirit is the empowering presence of God who makes us holy.

2) Through the events on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit now dwells among us.

The Holy Spirit is God Himself acting in this world and in our lives. He draws us by His grace to the Father. He intercedes with us and within us, helping us to pray. The Holy Spirit teaches and admonishes us when we read Scripture. He gives us the gift of discernment so that we might have the mind of Christ and think about things in ways that are informed by godly wisdom. He applies and nurtures the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control). The Holy Spirit assures us of our forgiveness and our adoption as the children of God. In short, the Holy Spirit mediates the presence of God in our lives and in the church.

3) The Holy Spirit empowers the church for effective service, witness, and global mission.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would empower us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). It is the Holy Spirit who enables the church to serve sacrificially and to be an effective witness unto Christ and the gospel. Holiness, as we shall see, is not just about making us personally righteous, but it is about extending God's glory and righteousness to all peoples of the world! There are thousands of people

groups who still have not received the good news about Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who makes sure that the gospel is proclaimed to the ends of the earth through the empowered witness of the church.

4) The Holy Spirit reveals the signs and wonders of God's in-breaking kingdom.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit is the One who continues to manifest redemptive signs of God's kingdom breaking into the world. The good news of God's powerful work in this world did not stop at the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is too small to think that we are called to simply proclaim something that happened in history thousand of years ago. While the cross and resurrection form the central proclamation of the church, we also acknowledge that the good news of God's reign continues to unfold. All the future realities of heaven (healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, deliverance from evil, and so forth) are breaking into the world now through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Men and women are healed by the power of the Holy Spirit. They experience forgiveness and reconciliation with one another. The poor and downcast receive hope. The Holy Spirit applies all the future realities of the New Creation to the present. This process will not be fully complete until Jesus returns, but if we look around, we can see that God is still at work by His Spirit, reconciling the world to Himself.

5) The Holy Spirit makes us holy.

Fifth, the Holy Spirit is the One who makes us holy. The presence of the Holy Spirit, God's empowering presence in us, leads to transformational holiness in our lives, in society, and in the world. As God's empowering presence, the Holy Spirit embodies the New Creation, including purity of holiness. This should really begin to expand our understanding of the full dimensions of holiness in our lives. In chapter 4, we saw that holiness is the sign and seal of God's presence in the world. This means that we must expand our ideas regarding what it means for God's holiness to be reintroduced into the world.

We mostly think of it in terms of personal holiness. We understand God's presence as eradicating sin in our lives. This is an important aspect of holiness. However, God's presence also challenges and transforms the society we live in. In other words, social holiness is also crucial to a proper understanding of biblical holiness. God's transformative work infuses not only our individual lives, but also the whole structure of culture and society. Moreover, holiness is not only personal and social; it is also missional. This means that holiness is not just about our being transformed, or even our culture reflecting certain things, but it causes us to think missionally about the world and how we can mirror God's actions in the world.

<http://www.seedbed.com/holy-spirit-accomplished-pentecost/>