**JESUS PEOPLE: A Guide Into What “Made” The Early Church.**

Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-6

**POWER**

There are a few discoveries/events in history that are considered catalysts of human flourishing. Examples of some of these events are the discovery of harnessed fire, use of tools (leverage), language, agriculture etc. modern-day game changers: electricity, printing, telephone, electronic media, the Industrial Revolution, the internet and IT to name a few.

All truths are said to be parallel, and if that be so, then just as there are events that catalyzed the physical flourishing of humans, there are events that also catalyzed our spiritual flourishing.

One of such events is the advent of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit gave us access to the power of God, without which we are quite ordinary. After the power of God, timid Peter became bold (Acts 2), Peter heals at the beautiful gate (Acts 3:4-8), Paul changes a city (Acts 19:20-41). The rebuke of Bar Jesus Acts 13:6-17.

Without him we can do nothing (John 15:5), all things are possible when we believe (Mark 9:23), we can do all things through Christ that strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).

Power (Definition): the ability or capacity to do, act, direct, control or influence things, people and events. Power comes from expertise, charisma or formal authority (delegation).

The 3 Ways the Power of God Manifests. I

In the New Testament, we see Jesus embodies all three.

1. Expressive - to encourage e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah and John (primarily vocal - gifts of the spirit)

2. Demonstrative - to prove e.g. Elijah, Elisha (primarily physical and dramatic). This is where we always want to camp. 1Corinthians. 2:4

3. Transformative - change e.g. Samuel, David (conversion, renewing etc.). The power of God has got to affect your tongue and actions.

The Impact of the Power of God.

*The power of God is to make us witnesses, period. An effective witness brings three things to the table - courage, proof and change. Without it, you have no standing/basis of witness.*

Howe

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Part II: LED BY THE SPIRIT

Acts 8:26-30, Acts 10:11-15, Acts 13:2-3, Acts 20:22

The Holy Spirit was a central figure in the early Jesus movement and guided them in many ways. In the book of Acts, we saw the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to those who believed in him (John 16:13; John 14:15). The leading of the Holy Spirit is the edge we have, to help us with the uncertainties of life.

Like the early church, to be led by the spirit, we must understand that the Holy Spirit is a person. The scriptures refer to Him as an advocate, a teacher, He speaks, He can guide. To become familiar with His person, we must be:

1. Familiar with the word of God Acts 2:42 and;

2. Trust Him

**Attributes of the Holy Spirit**

1. He is likened to a dove - gentle but forceful presence and personality. Luke 3:22 2
2. He is likened to wind - you cannot see it, but you will not mistake its presence if you pay attention. John 3:8; Acts 2:1-4
3. He is likened to fire - he comes to purify by consuming all impurities. Matthew. 3:11, Acts 2:3

**Practical ways the Holy Spirit Leads/Guides**

1. Inspiration

2. Insight

3. Recollection

4. Conviction

How do you know? Check all spirits Acts 13:6-12

1. Align with God's word John 16:14
2. Brings glory to God John 16:14
3. Check the fruit Galatians 5:22-23

**Striking the Balance**

The leading of the Holy Ghost does not absolve us of the responsibility to take wise rational decisions.

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**Part III-UNITY**

Acts 1:14; 2:42-47; 4:32-33,15:25; Ephesians.4:1-5

What IS Unity? Simply stated, unity is a connectedness! A connection with others at a deeper level that results in accomplishing great things together.

The Jesus people in the book of Acts were united around:

1. One person - Jesus

2. One mission - becoming witnesses

3. One message - love Preserving the unity of the spirit. Ephesians: 4:1-5.

The mindset for pursuing unity is to realize that you are a part of something bigger than yourself. Therefore, unity is not subordinating yourself to a person but a course, goal or dream that you and others are connected to.

The PIE model: the formula for getting ahead in most endeavors

1. Performance = 10% (skill)

2. Image = 30% (Presentation)

3. Engagement = 60%

The Evidence of Unity.

1. Sharing (you share successes and burdens)

2. There is greater capacity (greater accomplishment)

3. Forgiveness and understanding (walking in another’s shoes)

4. Cooperation

5. An overwhelming sense of peace, joy and gratitude.

Promoting and Nurturing Unity.

1. Minimize your differences

2. Promote what binds you together (they continued in the apostle’s doctrine)

3. Allow for breathing room (stay in your lane but acknowledge others)

4. Breaking of bread

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**Part IV - FAITH**

Examples of faith in the book of Acts - Acts 3:1-16; 12:3-19; 13:1-12; 28:5-6; 27:1-43

Looking back in history, it is very easy to imagine that the Jesus movement of the first century was composed of extraordinary people which accounts for why they had extraordinary accomplishments. However, the truth is, they were mere mortals who depended on the extraordinary abilities that God avails every believer. One of such extraordinary abilities is FAITH!

What is Faith?

Faith is not passive but a firm conviction, in hope and the unseen, that leads to action. Hebrews 11:1 helps us to see faith as consisting of both substance and evidence of hope and the unseen. For humans to thrive we must always have hope and be conscious of the fact that we are connected to the unseen realm (where God exists). Our obedience mixed with the promises of God (substance and evidence) are our connection to hope and the unseen realm.

Therefore, one can safely conclude that faith is a “placeholder”. It helps us lay claim to the things that are presently taking residence in the realm of hope and the unseen.

Doing great things.

There is no way great things for God are possible without engaging faith. From Hebrews 11, we see that by faith kingdoms were subdued, mouths of lions shut, flames of fire quenched, escaped death, armies were put to flight. Also, by faith indescribable pain and suffering was endured.

**MY HOPE FOR GO CHURCH FOR WHICH I AM PUTTING MY FAITH OUT FOR IS THAT, OUT OF US GOD WILL RAISE “*DIFFERENCE MAKERS*” BECAUSE WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

1. **PASSIONATELY LOVING GOD.**
2. **RELATING WITH KINDNESS and,**
3. **SERVING WITH EXCELLENCE.**

Three things to note when faith is in action.

1. Great hope (faith is the substance of things hoped for)

2. The anchor (via trust) is Jesus (not my will but Thine).

3. Expect anything to happen for faith to be realized (Peter’s release from prison; Paul’s thorn in the flesh).

The Pillars of Faith.

If faith is ever going to accomplish anything, it must be accompanied by works, patience, knowledge and love.

* Faith breaths by works
* Faith is sustained by patience
* Faith grows with knowledge
* Faith works (efficacy) by love