

THE FIRE-BAPTIZED CHURCH

From Acts 1 to the Ends of the Earth

Scripture

Acts 1:4–5 KJV

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”

Acts 1:8 KJV

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

JESUS’ EMPHASIS: YOU NEED THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem yet.

They had already been taught by Jesus.

They had witnessed His resurrection.

They had received the Great Commission.

They knew the message.

But Jesus still told them to wait for the power.

The assignment was too great to attempt merely through human ability.

Power came before worldwide witness.

Before the fire, they were distracted, unfocused and not consumed. You could say they had things mixed in still... their own thoughts, their own focuses their own priorities, they were not consumed with the fire of God yet.

And this is interesting because they still loved Jesus, and actually they were born again because Jesus breathed on them. Remember the last chapter of Luke and said receive the Holy Spirit. They were born again, didn't say they weren't good people, nice people, heaven bound people at this point because they were, but they were still distracted, unfocused and not consumed with the fire of the Holy Ghost.

This is why Jesus said I don't want you going anywhere. I don't want you doing anything until your baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire!

THE FIRE BRINGS FOCUS

You will notice Christians that are not consume with the fire of God are distracted, they're petty, often times confused concerning God's plan and purpose for their life, and they wanna know things that Jesus said you don't even need to know about...

But you see there's a purity, a clarity, a focus when the fire of God consumes us and burns out the mixture, the impurity, the contaminations and the distractions, and we become a holy people holy filled with the Holy Spirit!

A holy people.

Wholly filled with

the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells them what's most important in verse four in verse five and they missed it. You can tell they missed it by their question their focus and what they were thinking about inverse six.

It was natural, it was carnal, it was political, it was temporary things, things that had frustrated them, irritated them...

But Jesus was showing them. I'm not calm down fire to consume them and kill them and destroy them. I'm gonna fill you with the holy fire of the Holy Spirit and I'm gonna put my power on you and I'm gonna preach through you and demonstrate my power in my love and my goodness through your life and through the church and it's going to reach them! And give them the opportunity to repent of sin and receive the gift of eternal life that I died to give them!!

Glory to God this is the plan of God for the New Testament church!

GET YOUR EYES ON THE POWER OF GOD

Jesus said it's not for you to know...

Sometimes Christians wanna focus on what we shouldn't know...

But when the fire of God comes upon you, you will focus on what God wants you to know and what Jesus wants you to do!

You don't see these pointless conversations and focuses after the fire. God comes on their life you see determination, focus, perseverance, Power, results fruit, and kingdom advancement!

BASICALLY, JESUS SAID GET YOUR EYES OFF POLITICS AND ONTO THE POWER OF GOD!!!!

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER

Acts 1:8

Notice it wasn't just about a teaching. It was about them receiving actual power!

You shall receive power!!!

And you shall be!!!

First the power then the be...

We received Power first and then we shall be who God has called us to be and we shall do what God has called us to do!

Without the power & Fire of the Holy Spirit, we will be trying to carry out God's mission in the Earth and the personal assignment for our life differently than how Jesus said to do it. Now that just doesn't sit well with me!

SO THIS IS WHY WE MAKE THIS A MAJOR FOCUS AND EMPHASIS IN THIS CHURCH, BECAUSE JESUS DID!

THE FIRE FELL

Acts 2:3–4 KJV

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

And from that moment forward, Acts records the results of a Spirit-filled, fire-baptized, fire-consumed Church.

The fire didn't merely produce powerful individuals. It produced a powerful Church.

The fire produced:

ONE HEART + GREAT POWER + GREAT GRACE.

THE FIRE PRODUCES RESULTS

The Holy Ghost would not allow the Church to remain a Jerusalem-only movement.

Fire expands.

A fire-baptized church cannot remain satisfied with its own four walls.

The Holy Ghost took fishermen, servants, businessmen, women, young men and ordinary believers and turned them into Kingdom vessels.

The Holy Ghost didn't merely give them power.

He gave them direction.

Fire brings:

Calling

Separation

Direction

Timing

Assignment

Empowerment to fulfill the assignment

The same Spirit who calls you empowers you to accomplish what He called you to do.

FIRE PRODUCES HARVEST

This may be one of the greatest evidences of the fire in Acts.

Pentecost — Acts 2:41 — about 3,000 souls.

Afterward — Acts 4:4 — about 5,000 men.

Jerusalem — believers were added to the Lord.

Samaria — an entire city impacted.

The Ethiopian — one man encountered on a road.

Cornelius — a household.

The Philippian jailer — a household.

Ephesus:

Acts 19:20

“So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.”

Fire produces harvest!

A FIRE-CONSUMED CHURCH IS UNSTOPPABLE

They were threatened.

They kept preaching.

They were arrested.

God opened the prison.

They were beaten.

They went right back to preaching.

That's a fire-consumed Church!

You cannot intimidate someone who has already surrendered everything to Jesus and is consumed by His fire.

The fire of God will position you in heaven race for your life! In God's will that is unstoppable.

Persecution scattered them.

But instead of destroying the Church:

Acts 8:4

“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

What was intended to scatter them actually scattered the Gospel.

THE FIRE BRINGS BREAKTHROUGH

Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises.

Then:

“And suddenly there was a great earthquake...”

Results:

- Chains broke
- Doors opened
- Prisoners were freed
- The jailer was saved
- His household was saved
- Their breakthrough became somebody else’s salvation.

THE FIRE PRODUCES A SUPERNATURAL LIFE

The early Church experienced:

- Prayer
- Revelation
- Spiritual gifts
- Prophecy
- Tongues
- Visions
- Dreams
- Angelic intervention
- Divine guidance
- Discernment
- Words of knowledge
- Supernatural wisdom
- Boldness
- Fellowship with God

The fire produced a Church that was spiritually alive and supernaturally sensitive.

THE FIRE REACHES HOMES

The fire reached houses—not merely church meetings.

Whole homes were touched.

“And all that believed were together...”

The fire didn’t drive believers apart.

It drew them together.

They:

- Ate together
- Prayed together
- Worshipped together
- Served together
- Gave together
- Suffered together
- Rejoiced together
- Evangelized together

THE SUPERNATURAL BECAME NORMAL

Acts 3:6–8 — lame man walks.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire will give you something to give to somebody else!

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people...”

“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul.”

Fire produced demonstration, not merely explanation.

FIRE PRODUCES BOLDNESS

Before Pentecost:

“I know not the man.”

After Pentecost:

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John...”

The fire of God will cause you to have a boldness in the face of persecution and opposition against the gospel against your life and against your calling.

The fire of God kills the fear of man.

Fire turns fearful witnesses into bold witnesses.

The fire of God will cause you to obey God rather than Man.

THE WORD PREVAILED

Acts 19:20 KJV

“So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.”

Not: Opposition prevailed.

Not: Rome prevailed.

Not: Persecution prevailed.

Not: Religious opposition prevailed.

THE WORD OF GOD PREVAILED.

THE FIRE MUST BE PASSED ON

Paul → Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:6 KJV

“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.”

And then:

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

That’s four generations:

Paul → Timothy → faithful men → others also.

Fire is not merely supposed to burn in us.

It is supposed to ignite somebody else.

THE BIG PICTURE OF ACTS

Jesus emphasized the fire:

Acts 1:4–8

The fire fell:

Acts 2:1–4

And look what the fire produced:

- Corporate results — Acts 4:31–33
- Global results — Acts 1:8; 13:2–4
- Individual results — Acts 6:8
- Calling results — Acts 13:2
- Soul-winning results — Acts 2:41; 4:4
- Unstoppable results — Acts 5:40–42
- Overcoming results — Acts 8:1–4
- Breakthrough results — Acts 16:25–34
- Spiritual results — Acts 2:42–43
- Financial results — Acts 4:34–35
- Relational results — Acts 2:44–46
- Household results — Acts 10:44; 16:31–34
- Expansive results — Acts 6:7; 12:24
- Miracle results — Acts 5:12–16
- Boldness results — Acts 4:31
- Wisdom results — Acts 6:10
- Joy results — Acts 8:8; 13:52
- City-changing results — Acts 8:5–8
- Cultural results — Acts 19:18–20
- Leadership results — Acts 6:3
- Direction results — Acts 16:6–10
- Protection results — Acts 12:5–11; 28:1–6
- Kingdom-advancement results — Acts 19:20
- Generational results — 2 Timothy 2:2

Jesus placed tremendous emphasis on the baptism of the Holy Ghost because He knew the assignment He was giving the Church would require supernatural power.

Acts 1 gives us the command.

Acts 2 gives us the fire.

Acts 3–28 give us the results.

TODAY'S QUESTION

If those were the results of a fire-baptized Church then, why shouldn't we contend for the same fire and expect biblical results today?

The Book of Acts shows us what happens when a Church isn't merely attending services, but is filled, consumed, directed, empowered, and propelled by the Holy Ghost.