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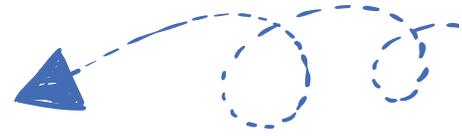
Lord, I will go! *Empower Me*

(Acts 1:8)

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of two missionaries who on one occasion contemplated the Niagara Falls in admiration. Amid their astonishment, one of them said, "I'm sure this is the greatest unused source of power in the world." In the face of such a statement, the other missionary replied, "It is not so, dear brother. The greatest source of power that goes unused is the Person of the Holy Spirit."

My friends, I fully agree with this statement. The person of the Holy Ghost imparts a special spiritual power to the lives of God's children. In the book of Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1, verse 8, the Bible tells us, "But you will receive



power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

DEVELOPMENT

As we study the Word of God, we realize that the power of the Holy Spirit enables God’s children and transforms them from ordinary to extraordinary people. For example, we can mention the case of Saul, the first king of Israel. History says Saul was an ordinary person of the people. Even the day of his anointing as king, he was so frightened that he hid (1 Samuel 10:22). Faced with the great responsibility before him, Saul felt incapable. Despite this, the prophet Samuel anointed him as king. Do you know what happened next? Notice what 1 Samuel 11:6 tells us: “When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him.” King Saul was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and went from fear to courage. When the power of the Holy Spirit came upon him, he was willing to face the challenges ahead.

Let me give you another example: Do you remember that young man named Samson? According to the Bible, he has been the strongest man, physically speaking, who has ever existed. Samson’s feats are extraordinary:

- He tore apart a lion with his own hands (Judges 14:6).
- He faced great armies alone (Judges 15:14).
- He dismantled the gates of a city and carried them on his shoulders (Judges 16:3).

Many, looking at Samson’s extraordinary exploits, have wanted to explain that they were the product of his natural strength. Others have concluded that the extent of his hair had a kind of magical power. But the Bible does not support any of these explanations. Rather, the scriptures make it clear that Samson’s power resided in the Holy Spirit. Each time the Bible presents a great work done by Samson, it relates it to the Spirit of God. Let’s notice the following verses:

- The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. (Judges 14:6)



- As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. (Judges 15:14).

Did you notice that? It was not Samson's physical power that enabled him to accomplish the great feats! He was able to do all these things because the power of the Spirit of God came upon him!

Equally, we can mention the Apostle Peter. When our Lord Jesus called him, Peter was a fisherman (Luke 5:1-11). For three and a half years Peter was walking with the Lord. But just in the end, when Jesus was arrested and taken to the Jewish courts to be sentenced, Peter, instead of courageously placing himself on the Master's side, denied him three times (John 18:25-27). Why did Peter deny the Lord? Simple: out of fear. He was afraid of the power of Jewish priests and leaders. He was unwilling to defend the cause at the time of greatest need.

However, Peter repented, and Jesus forgave and restored him (John 21:15-17). Then we can see a Peter who courageously rose to preach without the slightest vestige of fear (Acts 2:14-40). We also see him facing Jewish priests and leaders (Acts 4:5-8). Even when he was threatened with death, he courageously said, "We must obey God rather than human beings" (Acts 5:29). He who one day denied Jesus for fear of death now rises without any fear!

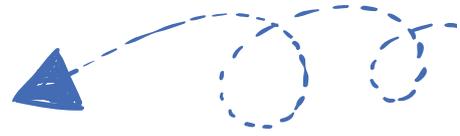
EMPOWER ME

How could this extraordinary change be made? Peter was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, Peter and the other Apostles received the Holy Spirit and were empowered to fulfill the mission (Acts 2:4). As a result, the Apostle Peter was able to rise without fear and proclaim the message of the cross.

Friends, the Holy Spirit empowers God's children. Who could say that Christ's disciples, most of them ordinary, would touch people from all over the world? Someone said:

During the apostolic era the triumphs of the Cross continued. The opposition dissipated. Pagan temples were emptied and converts multiplied





by thousands. Without money, Christians overcame the confederation of riches around them; without proper schooling they confused the connoisseur rabbis; without political or social powers they proved to be stronger than the Sanhedrin; devoid of a priesthood they defied the priests and their temple; and without a soldier they were more powerful than the legions of Rome. Thus, they came to plant the cross on the Roman eagle.¹

That's right, my friends. When the Holy Spirit empowers people, and especially the church, great things happen. If we do not see great works today, it is because the person of the Spirit of God has been left out of the equation. Do you know who will do the greatest works for the Lord? Let me share this powerful quote from the book *The Desire of Ages*, page, 250:

He who loves Christ the most will do the greatest amount of good. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.

When the Spirit of God takes over every part of our lives, we will work with the same power that the Apostles of Christ worked. This is why our greatest need today is to ask that the power of the Holy Spirit come upon each member of our church—upon every young person, child, and adult. When the Holy Spirit fills our lives, we will see the wonders of God.

The story tells that Evan Roberts, a 26-year-old man, had been praying for thirteen years that his life would be fully controlled by the Holy Spirit. He begged God to give him a whole heart, a heart totally dedicated to the kingdom of God. Evan often prayed late at night and interceded for the youth and adults in his church. He prayed so that God would visit the city of Wales with the power of revival. Welsh revival began at a youth meeting at Evan Roberts' church. Evan encouraged his friends to seek the Holy Spirit to fill their own lives. The Holy Spirit touched their hearts, and 16 young people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The sparks of revival that began in this humble village church would ignite the flames of revival across the country. It is estimated that over

¹ Leroy E. Froom. *The Coming of the Comforter* (Miami, FL: Asociación Publicadora Interamericana, 2010), p. 121.



the course of nine months some 100,000 people accepted Jesus in the small country of Wales, crimes ceased, people were transformed by the grace of God.

This great spiritual revival began with a humble young man who asked that the power of the Holy Spirit fill his life. An entire nation was changed by a young man, Evan Roberts, and a group of friends who cried earnestly for the power of the Holy Spirit.

Something similar will happen when each of us decides to seriously ask for the fulness of the Holy Spirit. When this happens, the words of Acts 1:8 will be fulfilled again: "But 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 ends of the earth."

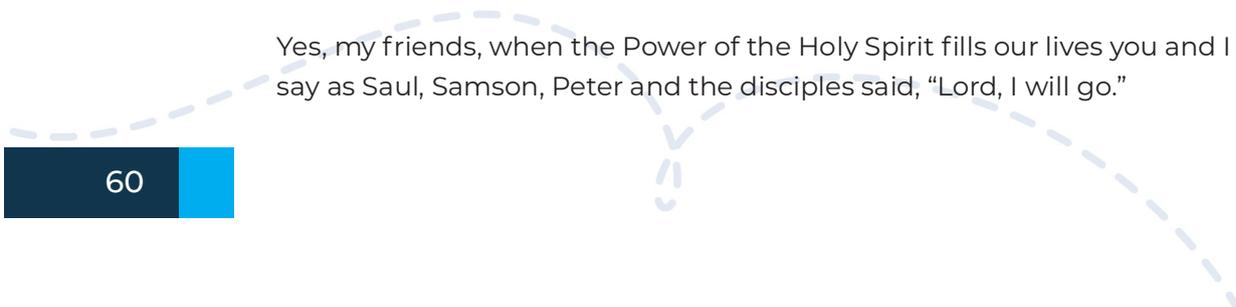
CONCLUSION

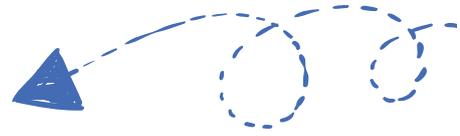
The power of the Holy Spirit transforms ordinary people into effective instruments to fulfill the mission. Today I want to invite you to cry out together for the power of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer must be the same as the following Hymn:

*Hover o'er me, Holy Spirit,
Bathe my trembling heart and brow.
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence;
Come, O come and fill me now.*

*Fill me now, fill me now,
Jesus, come and fill me now;
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence;
Come, O come and fill me now.*

Yes, my friends, when the Power of the Holy Spirit fills our lives you and I will say as Saul, Samson, Peter and the disciples said, "Lord, I will go."





REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What happened in Saul's life when the Holy Ghost came into his life?
2. What was the source of Samson's power?
3. When did the Holy Spirit fill the lives of Peter and the disciples? What happened next?
4. What should our prayer be?

