

“EMPOWERED TO WITNESS: THE SPIRIT FOR A HURTING WORLD”



Core Text Acts 1:8 —

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses...”

INTRODUCTION: A HURTING WORLD NEEDS A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

Before Pentecost, the disciples were fearful, uncertain, and hiding. After Pentecost, they

were bold, compassionate, and outward-facing. The difference was not personality — it was **power**.

And our world today mirrors the brokenness of the first century:

- **Loneliness is at epidemic levels** — the U.S. Surgeon General reports that over 50% of adults feel chronically lonely.
- **Anxiety and depression are rising**, especially among teens and young adults.
- **Violence, polarization, and distrust** are tearing communities apart.
- **Economic pressure** is crushing families.
- **Church hurt and spiritual confusion** leave many wandering without hope.

Pentecost reminds us: **God does not leave His people powerless in a hurting world.**

He sends His Spirit so the church can step into the pain with the hope of Jesus.

POINT 1 — THE SPIRIT GIVES POWER FOR PURPOSE (ACTS 1:8)

Acts 1:8 — *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses...”*

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Short History:

This moment occurs 40 days after the resurrection and 10 days before Pentecost. Jesus prepares His disciples for a global mission that will begin in Jerusalem and spread outward.

Exegesis

Jesus tells the disciples they will receive **power** (Greek: *dynamis*) when the Holy Spirit comes. This power is not random or self-focused — it is directed toward becoming **witnesses** of Christ “in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Theology

Pentecost is not primarily about tongues, fire, or emotion — it is about **mission**. The Spirit empowers believers to make Jesus known in word, deed, and character.

Life Application

- Your “Jerusalem” is your home, workplace, and circle of influence.
- Your “Judea” is your community.
- Your “Samaria” is the people you’d rather avoid.
- Your “ends of the earth” is wherever God sends you.

The Spirit empowers you to be a witness where life hurts the most.

POINT 2 — THE SPIRIT SPEAKS THROUGH ORDINARY PEOPLE (ACTS 2:1–4)

Acts 2:1–4 — The Spirit fills all who were gathered, enabling them to speak in other languages as a sign of God’s global mission.

Short History:

Pentecost was a **Jewish harvest festival** drawing Jews from many nations to Jerusalem. God chose this multicultural moment to launch the church.

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Exegesis

The Spirit falls on *all* who were gathered — men, women, young, old.
Tongues of fire symbolize purification and divine presence.
The miracle of languages shows God’s desire to reach every nation.

Theology

Pentecost democratizes ministry.
The Spirit does not fall on the “elite,” but on the willing.

Life Application

- You don’t need a title to be used by God.
- You don’t need a platform to speak hope.
- You don’t need perfection — just surrender.

The Spirit uses ordinary people to bring healing to extraordinary pain.

POINT 3 — THE SPIRIT ADDRESSES REAL HUMAN PAIN (ACTS 2:37)

Acts 2:37 — “When they heard this, they were cut to the heart...”

Short History:

Peter’s sermon confronts the crowd with the truth about Jesus. The Spirit convicts not to condemn, but to heal and restore.

Exegesis

After Peter preaches, the crowd is “cut to the heart.”
The Spirit exposes wounds — not to shame, but to heal.

Theology

The Spirit is both **Comforter** and **Convicter**.
He reveals the brokenness of the world and the brokenness within us.

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Life Application: Where People Are Hurting Today

The Spirit empowers the church to speak into:

- **Emotional pain:** anxiety, depression, trauma
- **Relational pain:** divorce, isolation, fatherlessness
- **Economic pain:** job loss, debt, housing insecurity
- **Spiritual pain:** doubt, church hurt, identity confusion
- **Social pain:** racism, violence, polarization
- **Physical pain:** sickness, chronic stress, burnout

Pentecost equips the church to step into these wounds with the healing of Christ.

POINT 4 — THE SPIRIT GIVES BOLDNESS TO PROCLAIM HOPE (ACTS 2:14–36)

Acts 2:14–36 — Peter boldly proclaims Jesus crucified and risen.

Short History:

Peter, who denied Jesus weeks earlier, now stands before thousands with courage. This transformation is evidence of the Spirit’s power.

Exegesis

Peter, once fearful, now stands boldly and proclaims Jesus crucified and risen. His courage is not natural — it is Spirit-given.

Theology

The Spirit turns cowards into preachers, doubters into evangelists, and the broken into ambassadors of Christ.

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Life Application

- Boldness is not volume — it is clarity.
- Boldness is not aggression — it is compassion.
- Boldness is not arrogance — it is Spirit-dependence.

The Spirit gives you courage to speak Christ into hurting places.

POINT 5 — THE SPIRIT BUILDS A HEALING COMMUNITY (ACTS 2:42–47)

Acts 2:42–47 — The early church becomes a community of teaching, fellowship, generosity, and prayer.

Short History:

This is the **first description of the Christian church** after Pentecost. Their Spirit-formed life becomes a witness to the world.

Exegesis

The early church becomes a community of teaching, fellowship, generosity, prayer, and shared life.

Their Spirit-filled life becomes a witness in itself.

Theology

Pentecost births not just empowered individuals, but a **Spirit-formed community** that embodies the love of Christ.

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Life Application

- A Spirit-filled church is a healing church.
- A Spirit-filled church is a generous church.
- A Spirit-filled church is a welcoming church.
- A Spirit-filled church is a praying church.

The world is hurting — but the Spirit forms a people who carry Christ’s healing.

CONCLUSION: PENTECOST POWER FLOWS FROM CALVARY LOVE

The Spirit did not come until Jesus died, rose, and ascended.

Pentecost is the fruit of the cross.

At Calvary, Jesus purchased the Spirit for His people.

At Pentecost, Jesus poured the Spirit into His people.

Today, Jesus empowers His people to heal a hurting world.

Pentecost is not a holiday — it is a calling.

A hurting world needs a Spirit-filled church.

And a Spirit-filled church points always to the cross.