

# HOLY GHOST POWER

## RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF GOD WHEN YOU SEE IT

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."*

~ Acts 1:8

### 1. Holy Ghost Power

- a. The promise of the Father - Matt 3:11, Luke 24:49
- b. Holy Ghost power at Pentecost - Acts 1:4-5, 7-8, 2:4, 17, 33
- c. Many people pursue this power as if it is peak spiritual experience (It's not)
- d. Fact: most churches can't display this Holy Ghost power - miracles, visions, prophecies
- e. *Are they not saved? Do they not have the Holy Ghost? Is some sin preventing it?*
- f. A popular explanation: power given to the pure, spiritual, full of faith, fervor, truth, love
- g. Corollary: power is absent from the "lukewarm" who lack repentance, faith, charity
- h. This explanation is contrary to Biblical evidence, but how do we get power?

### 2. The Corinthian Problem

- a. Tongues, signs, powers existed where problems existed w/doctrine, behavior, charity
- b. The Corinthians had a maturity problem - 1 Cor 3:1-3,
- c. The Corinthians had a (unconfessed) sin problem - 1 Cor 5:1-2, 6:5,18, 15:34
- d. The Corinthians had doctrinal problems, divisions, contentions - 1 Cor 15:12, 11:17-18
- e. The Corinthians had a problem with being puffed up (w/power) - 1 Cor 8:1
- f. They were babes, unable to hear meat, sinful, divisive, striving, doubts, pride, lack of charity, and misusing the powers the Spirit gave them.

### 3. Further Revelation

- a. How could the most carnal church in Paul's ministry have abundant Holy Ghost powers?
- b. The Holy Ghost was not the last thing Christ revealed.
- c. First Jesus taught, then sent Holy Ghost, but then returned and revealed → Eph 3:1-5
- d. He revealed to the apostle Paul (after Pentecost) unknown spiritual information Gal 3:3
- e. They could have Holy Ghost power and be ignorant of this mystery - Rom 11:25, 16:25

### 4. Imperfect Power

- a. This revelation from Christ to Paul fulfills the word of God - Col 1:25-27
- b. The revelation given to Paul had the power to perfect - Col 1:28, Eph 4:12, 2 Tim 3:17
- c. One heart/soul was not the cause but effect of the power at Pentecost - Acts 4:31-32
- d. But now, Corinthians received the same Spirit, but w/o the same effect.
- e. They were given power before they understood the 'more excellent way' - Eph 3:9-10
- f. The Holy Ghost power displayed in miracles, signs, tongues, did not make perfect.

### 5. The Power of God in Us

- a. The Corinthians may have been the most powerful church (money, knowledge, gifts)
- b. Yet, Paul starts talking to them about power in a different place - 1 Cor 1:18, 24, 2:2-4
- c. They thought Holy Ghost power was manifesting miracles, tongues, but now ...
- d. Holy Ghost power not seen in miracles, but in the message - Rom 15:13-14, 2Ti 1:7-11
- e. It is not that Paul did not fully know the mystery, but the Corinthians did not. 1Cor 2:7
- f. It is not having the Spirit, but learning/walking from the Spirit where there is power.
- g. There is power in seeing what God is doing through you in Christ - Rom 1:16
- h. This way, the power is seen in our weakness, and of God - 2Co 4:7,12:9, Eph 3:20, 6:10