

## **“The Messenger” MSWSBA February 2016**

As we consider upcoming ministry opportunities and activities in our churches or personal lives, let's stop and ponder about just how desperate we are for His guidance. In Acts, the Holy Spirit is present behind all of the activity that is taking place in the church. In his gospel, Luke (also the author of Acts) does indeed include the description of Jesus' disciples that Jesus gave on the road to Emmaus as "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!" (Luke 24:25) Mankind most certainly was and continues to be sinfully slow of heart to believe the testimony of God. Only a work of God could help sinful mankind to understand and Jesus would soon send the Holy Spirit to do just that. It seems most characteristic of Luke to note the activity of the Holy Spirit working throughout the narrative as Luke has already proven himself from his gospel to be one who pays attention to detail. At the end of Luke, the stage is set for the prominence of the Holy Spirit early on in Acts as we see how desperate the disciples were for the Holy Spirit. Even after the resurrection, when Jesus appeared and promised that the Holy Spirit would come soon, the disciples still did not understand what had taken place as they continued to anticipate an overthrow of the political system in order to establish Israel as a political power (Acts 1:6). It is evident that there is a desperate need for a Helper who can make the disciples understand the work of Christ and the kingdom of God. Jesus essentially points them to the Holy Spirit because it is the Holy Spirit that is going to help them to understand. In so doing, He states the thesis of the entire book of Acts in Acts 1:8, stating, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV).

Once the Holy Spirit came, the church did what Jesus stated here in this verse. The first seven chapters describe the activities of the church in Jerusalem, then they scattered to Judea and Samaria, then ultimately the church witnessed to other parts of the earth. None of this was ready to take place until the Holy Spirit came to guide them. It could be argued that the missionary work could have and already had taken place apart from the Holy Spirit when Jesus sent out the seventy-two (Matthew 10:5-15, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 10:1-12). While this was in essence missionary work, it took place in a different situation than the church would be facing. For starters, this was a mission that merely took place within Galilee to the Jews. The church had the task to take the Gospel to the Jews and Gentiles all the way to the ends of the earth once they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. It was a new mission and a new situation since Jesus was not going to be on earth, but seated at the right hand of God (Hebrews 12:2).

When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, it seems to be of great significance that this event occurred at Pentecost. During a Jewish celebration of the giving of the Law, a new era was ushered in where the people of God would have the Holy Spirit as evidence that they have been raised from the death that occurred from their disobedience to the Law. When the Law was given on Mt. Sinai, the people instantly disobeyed by making and worshipping a golden calf. They were not able to keep the Law even from the beginning. Yet at this point, the Holy Spirit takes over and empowers the disciples and they began speaking in tongues (v. 4). The Holy Spirit led Peter to preach a powerful sermon and three thousand souls were saved (v. 14-41). The church was ready to grow. Are you sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit in your own life and in your church? Because of the Holy Spirit, we can expect great things from our churches, but first we must be aware of His presence in our lives. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Cor. 13:14)

Rev. Chris Kuenzle -DOM MSWSBA

FEB  
13  
SAT

### Children's Ministry Day

Contact MBC or Teri Broeker for more information.

FEB  
14  
SUN

### Valentine's Day

FEB  
15  
MON

### Presidents' Day

FEB  
25  
THU

### MSWSBA MESSENGER Newsletter Article Deadline

E-mail articles or news items to DOM, at [mswdom@marktwain.net](mailto:mswdom@marktwain.net).

FEB  
26  
FRI

### DR Training at Jefferson City

Contact MBC for further information and to register.

## How to Contact your DOM

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[mswdom@marktwain.net](mailto:mswdom@marktwain.net)

**Office Hours:**  
@ FBC Ewing 9:00am- 1:00pm



## Remember to Pray for our churches seeking a Pastor

- Wyaconda Baptist Church
- South Wyaconda Baptist Church
- FBC LaGrange

