

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

**Date** : 28 May 2023

**Sermon Title** : Walking by The Spirit: Power

**Speaker** : Rev Peter Koh

**Text** : Acts 1:8

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Pentecost happens 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, and it is the day God gave the Holy Spirit to all of us. Today's sermon is about the power of Walking by the Spirit.

### **Context**

Acts is the 2<sup>nd</sup> book Luke wrote after his first book, Luke, and it was written as a continuation of Jesus' ministry:

- Acts 1:1-2 – Jesus' work and teaching.
- Acts 1:3 – Jesus' death and resurrection, plus the promise of the Kingdom.
- Acts 1:4-5 – The promise of the Holy Spirit.

### **Kingdom restoration**

The disciples and the people were expecting Jesus to restore the kingdom of Israel in the way king David did, by force. This is expected as promises of Israel being restored are seen all throughout the Old Testament Prophets (cf. Micah 4:6-8) Hence, they were disappointed when Jesus ended up being crucified on the cross. When Jesus rose 3 days later, He appeared to His disciples, many of them within a period of 40 days, and told them to go to Jerusalem and wait...

- Once again, they were excited, thinking that the kingdom would be restored this time. (Acts 1:6)
- But they were again disappointed for Jesus said that it was not for them to know the time or season that the Father had fixed by His authority. (Acts 1:7)
- Jesus continued to explain that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit come upon them and they would be His witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the world (Acts 1:8) – this is God's way of restoring His Kingdom by love, which is different from man's way by force.

### **Power (Gk. *Dunamis*)**

- Strength to do a task
- Ability to do a task

This power is not for earthly fame, fans, finance, but to.....

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## **Witness**

- Seen a true account
- Heard a true account
- Has other proof that it is true

## **Supernatural Power of the Holy Spirit**

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came in mighty wind rushing upon the disciples. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in different languages. (Acts 2:1-4) The demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit resulted in thousands who got to know Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit that God poured into the disciples was so that they could be His witnesses.

## **Why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples**

Jesus said that they will receive power because Jesus understood the tremendously humongous opposition that they will face in their life.

- They would challenge the political and religious leaders with the idea that there is someone greater than Caesar or their gods.
- They would be against the moral principles and social norms of the day. In those days, people had different status such as men, women, children or slaves. The people would not accept the gospel so readily since it teaches that all are equal and this made sharing the gospel very tough.
- Christ knew that humans will need the supernatural power of God so God's Spirit must enter the hearts of man to impart the divine nature of God. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:23-24, Colossians 3:9-10) In the flesh, no man can live and witness for Him.
- This gives the believer power to control his life for God and to courageously proclaim the gospel to a world that reacts in violence and considers the gospel as foolish.
- Deep inside, humans fear rejection and confrontation. When someone is filled with the Holy Spirit, the person trusts God will provide and so be willing to share the gospel readily.
- The Holy Spirit empowers the Church for her worldwide mission of proclaiming the gospel (Luke 24:44-49)

This power is not for a selected few but for the entire Church and God want us to receive it for witnessing.

## **Some examples of the power of the Holy Spirit at work**

- The Clock Tower Revival started in Anglo Chinese School (Singapore) in the 1970s. It was a new and strange phenomenon where people started speaking in tongues. In that era, many churches were confused. When people came forward for altar call, they were slain under the power of the Holy Spirit, falling to the

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ground. In one incident, someone fell but stopped short of hitting the ground, rested in mid-air with only his heels in contact with the floor. It was like an invisible hand was holding the person up and then slowly lowered him down after a few seconds.

- After a preacher preached during one of these revival services, a man rushed into the hall from the back with a baseball bat loudly accusing the preacher of heresy and blasphemy. The preacher simply asked him to calm down in the name of the Lord Jesus, and before he could even finish his sentence, an invisible hand seemed to pull the man by the collar and dragged him out. After some time, this same man came crawling back into the hall asking for forgiveness for sinning against God and the preacher.
- In some instances, people who are new believers go through baptism of the Holy Spirit to be able to speak in tongue or exhibit other power of the Holy Spirit.
- At a Christian rally in a stadium, when the people prayed for it not to rain so that the many gathered there could hear the gospel, it rained only outside around the perimeter of the stadium while inside the stadium was dry.
- Physical healing (dislocated arm restored, healing from sickness).

We may witness the power of the Holy Spirit, but do we have the power to witness for Him?

## Why we may not have the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives

We want to experience this power of the Holy Spirit but sometimes even those who have been faithfully living as a Christian; serving, doing missions work, reading the Bible and even leading a small group may not experience the power of the Holy Spirit. This may be because:

- We do not know or have a genuine relationship with God - singing and praying what we do not mean.
- We cannot love a God we cannot touch and feel.
- We have not encountered God personally.
- We seek the gift (power) not the giver (God)

Only when we have encountered God's power in our lives will we be able to really understand who Christ is and who the Father is. We will receive God's healing where the power of the Holy Spirit will do a deep work in our lives. When we have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be more convicted of what we are doing.

## CONCLUSION

We do not need to live a defeated life. Jesus left us with peace through the Holy Spirit from whom we will also receive gifts for ministry. That power is still in operation today, God still does miracles. Let us seek the giver and have a personal relationship with Him so we may encounter the power of the Holy Spirit's deep work of transformation in our lives; and when the gifts of the Holy Spirit comes as a bonus to us, we will be

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more convicted of what we are doing and be ready to share our testimonies so people can see the power of God and see God living in our body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. This is what Pentecost is all about; for us to know God and for the world to know Him through the resources God wants to give and bless us with.

## **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?
  
- 2a. What do you understand by the power of the Holy Spirit?
- 2b. Do you desire to have the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. How has knowing that the purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit is for witnessing, impacted you?
  - a. Is your desire to have the power of the Holy Spirit aligned to why God has given the Holy Spirit to His disciples?
  - b. Do you shy away from witnessing for God? What can you do differently knowing that you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness for God?
  
4. Is the power of the Holy Spirit evident in your life and ministry? If yes, share your experience.
  - a. (i) What deep work do you need the Holy Spirit to do in you to be more convicted of what you are doing in your life and ministry.  
(ii) What challenges do you face in allowing God to do this deep work in you?
  - b. How can your group members encourage or help you to overcome the challenges in 4a(ii) to walk by the Spirit in the following week(s), till your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Share your testimony on how the power of the Holy Spirit helped you out of a defeated life.

OR

Give thanks to God for giving you the power of His Holy Spirit to enable you to bear witness to His gospel.

6. With a prayer partner, bring before God all that you have shared and ask God to do the deep work of transformation in your lives. If it had been the gifts you had desired more than God the Giver, seek the Lord's forgiveness.

Pray also for your group and everyone in our church to sincerely seek the Giver and use the gifts which we receive as a bonus, to witness for Him and not for worldly gains.

### Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Worthy of It All – David Brymer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywoMeuutuc4>
2. Consuming Fire – Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iT0lvcEHjM>
3. I Speak Jesus – Charity Gayle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBiz8vDMG20>

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