

"...Until the day He was taken up to heaven after giving His chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup> During the forty days after he suffered and died, He appeared to the apostles from time to time, and He proved to them in many ways that He was actually alive. And He talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> Once when He was eating with them, He commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. <sup>5</sup> John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere-in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:2-4, 8NLT The verses above show us the special instructions given to the apostles regarding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The day of Pentecost (Greek word *pentekostos* meaning fifty or fiftieth day) was actually the birth of the church. It is the Holy Spirit that brought and still brings the church into existence and gives it life. In these first few verses of Acts chapter 1 we see that Jesus Himself refers to the Holy Spirit as the "gift" that God promised to leave them and the "Helper" that Jesus spoke to them about in John 14.

After He was raised from the dead, Jesus walked the earth for 40 days appearing to different people individually and to groups to prove that He really had been raised from the dead by the Power of God. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, they were all gathered in the Upper Room and tongues of fire came upon each one as they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

"On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. <sup>4</sup> And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability." Acts 2:1-4NLT

One of the questions that Christians often ask is, "Why do we need the Holy Spirit or what is the benefit of the Holy Spirit is today?" <u>Here are few points to help us better understand the role of the Holy Spirit:</u>

- He bears <u>witness</u> with our Spirit affirming that we are the children of God and heirs with Christ (Rom 8:12-17)
- 2) He brings to life the Word which is then <u>activated</u> inside of us (Hebrews 4:13)

- 3) He gives us <u>authority</u> and power to preach the Word with boldness and conviction (Luke 4:18, Acts 4:8-13)
- 4) He comforts, encourages and counsels us as He leads us into all Truth (John 14)
- 5) He grants us the 9 spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

In short, the Holy Spirit is the Power of God the Father and God the Son represented on earth today. The Holy Spirit is God's delegated power that empowers us to do whatever He wants to do through us. Does the Holy Spirit still perform signs and wonders today? Mark chapter 16 records the words of Jesus before He ascended to the Father and this is what He said,

<sup>17</sup> "These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. <sup>18</sup> They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed." Mark 16:17-18NLT

The Word of God is never changing. <u>The Word of God is as real and true today as it was the day it was written</u>. The words of Jesus still apply today and they will never change. The Holy Spirit that breathed into each and every author of the Bible is still the same today and His power will never change (2 Tim. 3:16). The common belief that some have adopted is that the power of the Holy Spirit is no longer manifested on the earth today is a foolish and an incredibly deceiving lie from Satan himself! Let no man ever sway or convince a member of the Body of Christ of such a devilish belief because it is contrary to the Word of God. **Without the precious Holy Spirit living, moving and convicting the hearts of men, there would not be one person saved, healed, delivered, set free and changed!** 

Our dear, precious partners please understand this: The Holy Spirit is a necessary, crucial, fundamental part of the Body of Christ; without Him there would be no church, no power and no salvation. It is only through the Power of the Holy Spirit that people are convicted and brought into the Presence of the Almighty through faith.

We see a great example of the Holy Spirit moving in the hearts of many godless people including Muslims and Atheists. As a result of the signs and wonders they see happening in their own lives, they are turning to the Lord faster than any other time in history! And it's all because of the manifested power of the Holy Spirit at work through brothers and sisters who are risking their lives as we speak to bring the message of salvation to them!

Here at JMM we get asked a common question: What is the biggest miracle (or manifestation of the Holy Spirit) that we've ever experienced? Many of our viewers who are familiar with our teachings or those who have attended our healing meetings have pondered this question and our response is simple. The most miraculous thing we've ever seen is when a soul receives Jesus as their Savior and Lord! That is most precious miracle we will ever see here on earth because it means that individual will never taste death, they will pass from this life into eternal life! Jesus tells us that all of heaven rejoices when ONE soul repents and receives Him (Luke 15:10)!

As some of you know John spent nearly 4 weeks traveling and preaching the Gospel in both Germany and Romania. Because of your faithful support and obedience to send him, he was able to see souls receive Christ for the first time and physical healings take place. Many of these meetings were with non-believers who as a result of the Holy Spirit power became born again. Some of the meetings were with believers who needed a touch in the natural and many areas of their life. Some needed deeper teachings from the Word and John was able to go and meet those needs because of you. **Thank you!** 

Perhaps the thing that attracts people to Christ most, besides of course, the Holy Spirit, is that we never ask people to join a religion, organization or specific church. We invite them to experience a relationship with the Father through the Lord Jesus; the One who gives peace and joy; the one heals and sets them free. While we encourage people to seek a church that is rooted in the Word and believes in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, we do not force them to join one until they are ready.

We know that the subject of the precious Holy Spirit is intense. And while there is so much more to teach on this subject, there isn't enough space in this newsletter. The revelations of the Holy Spirit are endless. We pray that this short teaching will inspire you to dig into the Word of God for yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you every single day. We pray this newsletter with be a starting point for you to begin examining your own heart and inviting the Presence of the Holy Spirit to guide you in every step of your journey here on earth. In the words of Jesus,

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.<sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you.<sup>18</sup> No, I will not abandon you as orphans-I will come to you." John 14:16-18NLT

PS- We will continue on the subject of the Holy Spirit next month. We will also share some of the amazing testimonies that took place during John's trip in April so you too can be encouraged by what the power of the Holy Spirit is doing within the body of Christ in the times we are living in.

In Christ.

John & Alexandra