

KINGDOM POWER SOURCE

Jesus read the **kingdom manifesto** in the synagogue (Luke 4:17-21 based on Isaiah 61:1-3) Only a man filled with the power of God could fulfill it.....good news for the poor, freedom for captives and the oppressed, sight for the blind and abundant favor. Prime ministers, emperors, presidents and other such leaders have made promises about many such things down through the ages, but they fell short. Too often their policies did not set people free, but brought them into bondage. The world needed a liberator, but even Jesus was incapable of carrying out the kingdom manifesto by himself. When he came to this earth he emptied himself of his privileges to operate as deity. Paul referred to this self-emptying as 'kenosis' in the Greek language in Philippians 2:5-7. Jesus remained God the Son but chose to live as a man, fully dependent on the other members of the Trinity.

.....the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does, for the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. - John 5:19-20

As Jesus read the kingdom manifesto in the synagogue....his first words revealed the source of his kingdom power.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me.....

Over the next 3 1/2 years the disciples of Jesus would witness the truth of the scriptures.....

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. - 2 Corinthians 3:17

You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, for God was with Him.
- Acts 10:37-38

It was the anointing of God upon the man Jesus that made the difference in his ministry to others. People were set free in all areas of life. The key to kingdom power then and even now is the Holy Spirit and whether we will allow him to fully have his way in and upon us. Jesus was born of the Spirit right from the womb, but he did no miracles until he was 30 years old. It was when the Holy Spirit came **upon** him at his baptism that power was amplified so that he could do signs, wonders and miracles to bless people.

When we are born again in our spirit, we will be changed from the inside out as we have a new nature of God in us, and we become more like Jesus in our character. However, when the Spirit fills us and comes upon us, we receive greater ability for ministry to others.

***The Spirit of God in us gives us the CHARACTER of Jesus
The Spirit of God upon us gives us the CAPABILITY of Jesus
The Kingdom of God gives us the CAUSE of Jesus***

John the Baptist saw something significant when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism.

I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain (meno) on him... -John 1:32 NIV

meno - a primitive verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): - abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for) - Strong's concordance #3306

RT Kendall covers this subject well in his books - The Sensitivity of the Spirit and in Holy Fire. 'Although pigeons and doves are in the same family, they are different. Pigeons are loud and pushy and will land anywhere. Doves are graceful, quiet, not pushy or self-centered, and they are very sensitive. It would be very unusual for a dove to come to rest on a person. However, the Holy Spirit felt right at home to remain on Jesus because he found an atmosphere of love and peace. The apostle Paul wrote about some things that grieve the Holy Spirit: unwholesome talk, bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, malice etc. - Ephesians 4:29-31.

When one reads accounts of Christians mightily used of God throughout history, there is a common thread to them. They all had a dynamic encounter with the Holy Spirit. It happens in different ways to people. Before it happened to the first disciples, Jesus told them to wait for the promise of the Father. The word wait (perimeno in Greek) means....to wait around.

(.....through faith and patience we inherit what is promised - Hebrews 6:12)

The Upper Room is a Waiting Room

There are various types of waiting rooms, none of which are that enjoyable. We wait for a doctor, dentist, our car to be fixed or in an emergency room. The apostles of Jesus were willing to wait around for 10 days and then it happened....fire from heaven! However, they were not just waiting...they were praying together. They were getting closer to God and one another. Prayer produces intimacy and intimacy leads to new creations, and on the day of Pentecost the church was born.

Before this happened, Jesus had spent 40 days teaching about the kingdom of God. Throughout the Bible, the number of 40 is a time of testing. During those 40 days, Jesus was testing his apostles to make sure they were convinced that he was alive. He also reviewed his important teachings about the kingdom, for that was the

message they were to carry throughout the vast reaches of the Roman Empire and beyond.

On the day of Pentecost the disciples were **clothed with power from heaven.** The rest is history. If we review the meaning of wait (meno) as given above...it shows us that the apostles were willing to wait...in a given place (Jerusalem), relationship (in touch with God), and expectancy (for the promised power). What a great harvest took place from their waiting.

The **fire of God** continues to go around the world, shaking earthly kingdoms and setting people free. In our next messages, we will explore the Spirit at work in Jesus and share other examples from history that will inspire us to press in to greater dimensions of God's Spirit in us and through us. In the meantime....**let us spend time with God in the prayer room. It is our waiting room, from which we will see things born from above.**

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