



Sermon Series: Ghost Stories: The Power of the Holy Spirit

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit has an undeniable power on earth and in the life of every believer.

Main Passage: Acts 1:8

⁸ 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.”

Three functions of the power of the Holy Spirit:

- Strengthens the Church.
- Strengthens me.
- Shows us the way.

Discussion:

What?

What stood out to you from Dusty’s sermon or any questions you might have?

This passage needs to be understood in its context. It’s important to understand that Acts is a follow-up to the Gospel of Luke. The apostles are with Jesus right before his ascension when Jesus speaks these words. This is Dr. Luke’s version of the great commission. To put this in perspective read Matthew 28:16-20. Compare it to our main passage Acts 1:8. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

What can we learn about our role as a church through these passages?

That may seem intimidating but each great commission account gives us a promise. What is it?

Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7. Paul had prayed for Timothy and like a good disciple had passed the great commission on to him. Again, we see the Spirit as a vital part to accomplishing what God has set before us. What kind of Spirit does Paul say was given to Timothy?

So What?

Jesus gave the Spirit-driven mission to his disciples, it passed to Paul, and Paul passed it to Timothy. It is now passed to us. That can be scary but Paul says the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us (Romans 8:11) and it’s a Spirit of power! What kind of comfort can that bring to us?

Dusty gave us three functions of the power of the Holy Spirit. How does recognizing that power inside of us strengthen the church?

Strengthen us?

Show us the way?

Do What?

How would our conversations, love, and self control change if we trusted the spirit of power inside of us?

What is an area in your life that you need to trust the power of the Holy Spirit to give you strength?

Scriptures for further study or memorization:

Use these as a reference to help you as you discover the Holy Spirit's power in your lives.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

⁴ ...and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.