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The Holy Spirit is the promised power for the promised purpose.

**Acts 1:4-11 (NLT)** - 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>6</sup> So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. <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.” <sup>9</sup> After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. <sup>10</sup> As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

**Acts 2:1-21 (NLT)** - 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. <sup>5</sup> At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. <sup>7</sup> They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, <sup>8</sup> and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! <sup>9</sup> Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” <sup>12</sup> They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. <sup>13</sup> But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!” <sup>14</sup> Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. <sup>16</sup> No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. <sup>21</sup> But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’

## STUDY GUIDE

On Sunday we talked about how the Holy Spirit is the promised power for the promised purpose, and that there are two ways we can miss out on the promise of the Holy Spirit.

The first is by not receiving the power of the Holy Spirit and trying to do it on our own strength. When you look back at your Christian life experience, what are some ways that you have tried to do God’s work with your own strength? How has that gone?

The second way we can miss out on the promise is by receiving the power of the Holy Spirit and then not pursuing the purposes of God. We talked about that we could just stay within the realm of what is possible in our own strength, but that the promise of God is that what he wants us to do will require us to step out beyond where we are comfortable. Has there been a time when you stepped out beyond where you were comfortable in order to do what God asked of you? What was that like?

Take a moment to read Acts 3. As you reflect on what happened here, take special note of what this version of Peter looks like when compared to the Peter that abandoned Jesus when he was arrested. What is the difference that you see here? How has Peter changed?

This is the power of the Holy Spirit that allows us to do what God has asked of us. Peter was just a man before, doing his best, but just a man. Now he is empowered by the Holy Spirit and that changes everything.

Take some time to pray for two things: that the Spirit would empower us and that God would show us the purpose he has for us that will require that Holy Spirit power.