

Revised 4/23/00

I would like to talk to you dear people today about a subject so dear to my heart —

"The Church" // The Bride of Christ

But a different type church than most of us are accustomed to —

a church with characteristics that set it apart from your General Form of Churches —

Would you look with me at Acts 2:1-4 (Read it)

The church we want to speak about is a Holy Spirit Filled // and Holy Spirit led // Body of Christ —

That day, we call Pentecost saw the Birth of such a church —

And I doubt seriously if there really has been one like it since —

But on the day of Pentecost the church received a Commission of Power which promised to get the job done

when the 120 Jews came down from the upper room, they came down in the power of the Holy Spirit of God —

- ① their experience was marvelous —
- ② it was so rewarding —
- ③ it was also very challenging —

they had experienced a spiritual phenomenon never before had by anyone —

Some received special empowerment, and unusual capabilities —

But all who were in that room received the promise of Acts 1:8

- ① they received power (to do what)
- ② witnesses — (where)
- ③ whenever & wherever the opportunity presented itself —

But everyone who was filled with the Holy Spirit — received something (they still do)

7 "Dear Ones" "Holy Spirit Filled" folks
today, are ^{still} out doing the Lord's
work, whenever & wherever
the opportunity presents itself —

Now, where was the power of
the church —

① Modern Buildings?

② The Unusual Methods of Teaching & Learning?
(No it was not)

③ Was it in their great material
wealth, or how they used it —
(No it was not)

④ Well was it in their popularity
and prominence in the community.
(No it was not)

You see the Bible later spoke
of such a church — The Church
of Laodicea

They were the first recorded Bragging
Church, "But not the last"

① They said: "We are Rich"
God said: "You are Poor"

② They said: "We have Need of Nothing"
God said: "You Need everything"

③ They said: "We are a Busy Church -"
"God Asked: Doing what?"

④ They said: "We have a Vision"
God said: "You're Blind"

⑤ They said: "Look at our Fine Clothes"
God said: "You're Naked"

⑥ The Church said: "But We are Satisfied"
God said: "You Make Me Sick"

Oh Dear One, You Can Readily
Recognize the Holy Spirit Filled,
Holy Spirit Led Church — "By
the Hardest they bring in"

① They have ^{the courage to} answer to "EVANGELIZE"

Ⓐ Boldly show their Faith w/ lost souls

Ⓑ And those souls are saved

7
a church Not involved in soul winning
negates the Holy Spirit - And there
is no evidence of power —

May I Ask: "Out of the souls saved
in the past year, how many did
you personally attempt to win
to Christ?"

② A Holy Spirit Filled / Holy Spirit
led Congregation has power
to Reproduce —

① A Spirit Filled believer in Christ sows
sowing seed —

② they stay busy caring for the seed —

① the Holy Spirit waters over the
seed, convicting the hearer —

① Souls are Sown — And the
One sowing the seed will have
a reward for their efforts —

③ The Holy Spirit Filled / Holy Spirit
led believer becomes a changed
person —

① Attitudes ② Actions ③ Faithfulness

There, in part is the evidence
of Spirit Filled, Spirit Led Believers -
I have little faith in one who
gets around bragging how "Spirit
Filled" they are, when the Fruit
Basket remains empty -

Hearts
Dear ~~one~~, whose ear is filled and
led by God's Holy Spirit, you
know it without them bragging
about it.

(The Evidence is there)

Would you consider carefully these
questions -

① Do you consider yourself Spirit
Filled and Spirit led -

(What evidence do you have to
offer?)

② Are you busy Evangelizing?

③ How many souls have you led
to the Lord?

④ Are you "Reproducing"

planted any seeds lately?

④ Give You Really a changed person

Acts 1:8 says: "after the Holy Ghost is come upon you, you will be indued with power, you will then be witnesses for me, everywhere you go"

① Holy Spirit Filled & led Believers
② Do Have Power

③ They do witness

④ They are changed

And the honest is evidence enough to ~~validate~~ make valid their claim

Let me give you another Scripture RSV to consider — Acts 4:31 (read it)
(Now let me paraphrase it)

"And when they became submissive, they began to use the power vested in them, BY GODS HOLY SPIRIT

And then they began to effectively do the work God left them to do —

Are you Spirit Filled // Spirit led?
"What evidence do you have to offer?"

My, My, Wouldn't it be marvelous to
be in a service, where the power
of prayer was so great that the
church would begin to shake"

when the Holy Spirit of God
would be so free to work, with
No One Quenching the Spirit!

Dear Precious Lord, we are
Not Spirit Filled nor Spirit led,
Folks one hand to man, much
less the Building - Amens

If you have ever believed and
accepted Jesus Christ as your
Savior, you have Received
the Holy Spirit.

You have, Potential Power
As there to be used

But too many folks are
satisfied with what they
have — they could care
less about being Holy Spirit led

I want everything God has
promised me — (Amos)

I want all the Holy Spirit I
can get — according to God not man

I want to Pastor a Holy Spirit
Filled // Holy Spirit led body
of Christ — I want to see
souls saved // folks witnessing //
changed lives —

And I believe the power is there
for those who will tap it —

One Holy Spirit Filled //

One Holy Spirit led //

"What evidence do you have to offer —

Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, //

The place where they were assembled

was shaken // And they were ^{all} Filled

with the Holy Ghost // And they

spoke the word of God boldly //

① they asked for ② received

③ And used boldly the power available —

① I would like to talk to you today about a subject most dear to my heart —

The Church // The Bride of Christ

But a different type church than most of us are accustomed to — a church with unusual characteristics, setting it apart from the general run of churches —

Let's read about it in ACTS 2:1-4
And ACTS 2:41-47

What made this body of believers so different from so many today?

They were empty of self / Making room for Holy Spirit to live in and work.

These folks were Holy Spirit filled, and Holy Spirit led —

① Controlled, ② Submission to God

③ led by God's Holy Spirit —

(Empty of self / Making room for Holy Spirit)

On the day of Pentecost the church received a Commission of the Promise of Power to carry it out —

The Commission still holds / So does the Promise of Power

When the 120 came down from the upper Room, they came down in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- ① What a Marvelous experience —
- ② it was so Rewarding —
- ③ it was also very Challenging —

No one had ever experienced this Spiritual Phenomenon before

Some received Special Empowerment and unusual Capabilities —

(But all received the Promise of Acts 1:8 Real it)

- ① They received Power (to do what?)
- ② To Witness (where)
- ③ Wherever & Whenever the opportunity Presented itself —

(You see the Promise was without compromise —) you will be my Witnesses

Spirit filled & Spirit led Believers
are Witnesses —

27 Spirit filled, Spirit led Believers
are still faithfully working
at the job —

That's how you can tell
that they are filled & led

Now, where was the Power of the
Church we consider today?
Was it:

- ① In their Great Magnificent Buildings?
- ② In their various Methods of Breaching
and teaching — Bond by, they met
in homes or at the street

The Breachers did not know what the
Word Ministry meant —

- ③ Was the Power in their Great Wealth
or the way they used it? (NO)
- ④ Well was it in their Prominence
& Popularity in the Community (NO)

These are things folks brag about,
and the Bible has much to
say about Bragging Churches

① The church said: "We are Rich"
God said: You are Poor

② They said: we have need of Nothing
God said: You need everything.

③ They said: "We are a busy church"
God asked: Busy doing what?

④ They said: "We have a vision"
God said: "You are blind"

⑤ The church said: "Look at our fine clothes"
God said: You are naked

⑥ The church said: "We are satisfied"
But God said: You make me sick.

Oh Dear One, it's so easy to
neglect Spirit filled & Spirit led
believers — ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~bring~~ ^{bring} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~house~~ ^{house}
they bring in —

⑦ The ^{Spirit filled & led} Congregation has & uses
power to **EVANGELIZE**
I said the Congregation —

3/ ② they all boldly show the word with unbelief —

③ souls are loved as a result.

A church not involved in law -
winning souls the Holy Spirit -
And there is no evidence of
law —

May & Ash, how many souls come
this year did you personally
attempt to win to Christ —

② A Holy Spirit Filled & led church
has power to reproduce —

Ⓐ they must sow the seed

Ⓑ they must nurture it

Ⓒ they must stay concerned about it —

③ the Holy Spirit Filled & Holy Spirit
led body of believers become
a Changed People —

Ⓐ Attitudes Ⓑ Actions

Ⓒ Faithfulness —

This in fact is the evidence
of how filled I have led the
people are —

I have no faith in one who goes
about bragging of how "Spirit
filled" they are when their fruit
basket remains empty —
No harvest —

When one is Spirit Filled & Spirit led
you'll know it without their
telling you — (All you have to
do is look at the evidence)

① Do you consider yourself Spirit
filled and Spirit led —
(what evidence do you
have to offer)

② Are you a soul winner

③ Are you reproducing —

④ Are you really a different person

Acts 1:8 says After the Holy Ghost is
come upon you, you will be ~~included~~
Included with power — you will be my
witness all the time — everywhere

④ Holy Spirit Filled & led believers
DO HAVE power —
— they do witnesses —
They are changed people

And the power is evidence enough
to validate their claim —

Let me show another Scripture Acts 4:31
Paraphrased —

"And when they submitted themselves,
they began to use the power vested
in them By God's Holy Spirit.

And they became effective
in doing the work God had
left them to do."

Are Men Spirit Filled & Spirit Led?

(Produce your evidence for
the Lord's S. Counting)

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be in a
service where the power of prayer
was so manifested that the church
began to shake — when the Holy
Spirit of God would be free to work —
with no one quenching the Spirit

People are not Spirit Filled or
Spirit led today, they want
more / Much less the church —

If you have ever accepted Christ
As your Savior you have RECEIVED
the Holy Spirit —

you have the potential power,
of Acts 1:8

But too many folks are satisfied
with what they have / they could
care less about being Holy
Spirit Filled & Holy Spirit led —

I want everything God has for
me —

I want all the Holy Spirit
I can get — (According to God,
not more)

I want to be a Spirit Filled,
Spirit led people —

I want to see demons driven,
Lives changed —

The Body of Christ, Submissive

5/ And I believe it's possible.
The power is there for those
who will tap it —

Are you Spirit filled
Are you Spirit led —
What evidence do you offer or proof.

Acts 4:31 The Prayer Prayed —
The place that all shook up —
The Holy Spirit manifested Himself
to them —

And they boldly used the power
available —

Let us pray —