

## Sermon Outline

### “Praying for the Holy Spirit”

“Desperate” series, Part 6 – John 14:12-14 – Tim Kerr – November 14, 2010

**Main Idea:** Jesus continues his powerful work through us ... when we pray!

#### The Promise of Power (verse 12)

1. What are the works that Jesus speaks of? The context requires that at the very least, these works include deeds of power. But that is not all. The works of Christ are also those aspects of Jesus’ ministry that testify to his message. The powerful works/message of Jesus revealed people’s inability to solve their deepest problems and their utter dependence on God to work to save them from their sin.
2. What are the greater works that we will do? We see what Jesus meant by looking at the book of Acts. At the end of Jesus’ ministry, there were 120 frightened people praying in an upper room. But after Pentecost, an ordinary fisherman preached a message in which 3000 were saved on a single day! *That’s greater works in action!* The powerful work of drawing sinners to Christ and then making them more and more like Jesus is the greater work that believers carry on since Jesus’ ascension.
3. How did Jesus function as a man? Jesus fulfilled his earthly ministry by being filled, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Consider the following verses:
  - a. *Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.” (Luke 4:18)*
  - b. *Jesus stated, “But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matt 12:28)*
  - c. *“... until the day when [Jesus] was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” (Acts 1:2)*
  - d. *“... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Act 10:38)*
  - e. *This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2:32-33)*

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4. The same Holy Spirit that Jesus was dependent on for his work is now active in our lives and work. We don't get a second or third tier Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus is the same Spirit that empowers us.
  - a. But, at times, it doesn't seem to be working. We are ineffective and powerless ... why? This promise is grand, but it is not automatic. It comes by prayer.

### The prayer for power (verses 13-14)

1. Jesus clearly ties the power of the Holy Spirit to prayer. No prayer ... no power. Prayer is essential for the task that God has given us. We are to take this gospel to the nations. We are to minister to each other with gifts that carry on the work of Christ in the church. But we cannot do this without a mighty infusion of the Holy Spirit. We are weak. We are often unconcerned. We are afraid. We are deeply needy. We desperately need the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. When we pray in Jesus' name we are not using some magical charm but relying on and trusting in the person and work of Christ—all that Jesus was in his character and all that he did for through his incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension.

### Application

1. Pray bigger, bolder prayers!
  - a. Pray prayers that can't be answered without the giving of the Holy Spirit, prayers that express great faith in a great God, who faithfully promises great things.
  - b. *"What are you asking God to do, that only God can do, so that when he does it, only he gets the glory for it?"* —Arturo Azudia
2. Start praying for God to send revival to you and this church.
  - a. *"Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."* (Hosea 6:1-3)
3. Pray for boldness in witness to unbelievers.
  - a. The great barrier in evangelism is not the coldness and apathy of the unbeliever, but the fear and apathy gripping the hearts of believers. We are cowards and we need the Holy Spirit!

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- b. *When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:31)*
4. Pray for the Spirit to be poured out upon the church for the unfinished task of world evangelization.
5. Pray for the Holy Spirit's work through our pastors.

## **Fellowship Starters**

1. Tim taught us that Jesus fulfilled his earthly ministry by being filled, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Do you pray daily for a fresh infilling and empowering of the Holy Spirit for all that God has called you to do? If not, how can this become a regular practice?
2. Since the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus for his work dwells in us and is active in our lives, why can our Christian lives, at times, be ineffective and powerless?
3. How would you describe your prayers—bold prayers that ask God for much or prayers marked by asking God for little? “What are you asking God to do, that only God can do, so that when he does it, only he gets the glory for it?”—Arturo Azudia
4. As Tim encouraged, take time (privately, as a family, and as a small group) to apply God's word by praying for the following:
  - a. Start praying for God to send revival to you and this church.
  - b. Pray for boldness in witness to unbelievers.
  - c. Pray for the Spirit to be poured out upon the church for the unfinished task of world evangelization.
  - d. Pray for the Holy Spirit's work through your pastors.