

# Encounter(ing) God

## Holy Spirit Part 2

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### Review

The Holy Spirit is equal in divinity to the Father and the Son. HIM!

- **The Advantage**
- **John 16:7**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

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### The Holy Spirit is our Advantage, Helper, Power — Jesus sends Him

#### The Command

- **Acts 1:4-5**

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Commanded to wait for Him, *before* we try to do Kingdom work.

#### The Promise

- **Acts 1:8**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Power to be a witness, standing, sharing, living, being transformed.

#### The Fulfillment

- **Acts 2:4**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

- Peter’s powerful, bold 3 ½ minute sermon — 3,000 saved. Boldness became reputation.

- **Acts 4:13**

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

**We need boldness, not arrogance,  
to stand for Truth and  
to share Truth like never before.  
The church’s future depends on it.  
The nation’s future depends on it.**

**Listen** — it doesn't matter whether you are uneducated and untrained in theology, the Advantage will make up the difference, He will cause others to marvel.

**Today** — we are continuing our journey through Acts — making observations and applications that will help us encounter the Advantage in a deeper way.

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## The Priority

The Advantage became the non-negotiable priority of the church!

**Up to speed** — the Holy Spirit gets poured out, results in bold preaching, people saved, crippled man healed, Jewish leaders irate, believers arrested, bold response, threatened, bold response, prayer...

- **Acts 4:29-31**

Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

- the Advantage, boldness was priority, hunger and ask!
- the Advantage fills them, boldness is result.
- filled again
  - **Ephesians 5:18**  
And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...
- experienced believers must understand their ongoing need to be continually filled with the Advantage. Not one and done!

**Listen** — when we make the Advantage, and reaching people our priority, the Advantage will make us His priority and fill us with boldness. But if our desire is only to experience some spiritual thrill, with no heart to reach people — the Advantage won't waste His time or power on us.

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## Gospel reaches Samaritans

...power, miracles, awakening, Jerusalem hears, sends ...

- **Acts 8:14-17**

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

- the Advantage is such a priority that Peter and John go to Samaria to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit because He hadn't yet fallen on them, though believers. Same process the disciples went through.
- new believers must be taught by more experienced believers about the priority of the Advantage.

- new believers must receive the Advantage in their life.
- **Luke 11:13**  
 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”
  - “ask” = beg, crave, make Him a priority

## Apollos, Aquilla, Priscilla

- **Acts 18:24-28**

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

- Apollos = eloquent, mighty in scriptures, instructed in way of Lord, fervent in spirit, taught accurately... only knew John’s baptism, not the baptism of the Advantage
- with as much as he had going on — he needed to be taken aside and instructed more accurately, he needed to know the baptism of the Advantage. THEN...
- he spoke boldly in synagogue vigorously refuting Jews publicly — he was UPGRADED!

**Listen** — *eloquent, instructed, semi-accurate teachers need to be humble enough to be taken aside and learn the ways of God more accurately.*

***Don’t let what you know keep you from what you don’t know!***

## Disciples, some believers in Ephesus

- **Acts 19:1-6**

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

- these disciples, believers, had never heard about the Advantage
- they knew John’s baptism, but not Advantage baptism
- such a priority in early church — Paul inquires of them
- they are honest, Paul prays, Advantage comes upon them, spiritual gifts happen, their lives are changed forever — now they have the Advantage!

## The Advantage needs to be our priority! Power and boldness is a must!

- *For experienced believers!* — get filled again and again and again
- *For new believers!* — just receive
- *For semi-accurate believers!* — taken aside, more accurate, get upgraded, more powerful
- *For unknowing believers!* — learn, obey, receive

**When the Advantage, and people, become the church's priority —  
the Advantage comes upon us  
with power and boldness to save and transform lives!**

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## Close

### Zerubbabel, tasked with finishing the rebuilding of the Temple

- **Zechariah 4:6**

This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts.

**Mighty collective strength, powerful individual strength —  
no human resources can get the job of the Kingdom done.  
Only Holy Spirit power can — only the Advantage can!  
PRIORITY!**

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## Closing Prayer

“O churches! take heed lest ye trust in yourselves; take heed lest ye say, ‘We are a respectable body,’ ‘We are a mighty number,’ ‘We are a potent people;’ take heed lest ye begin to glory in your own strength; for when that is done, ‘Ichabod’ shall be written on your walls and your glory shall depart from you. Remember, that he who was with us when we were but few, must be with us now that we are many, or else we will fail; and he who strengthened us when we were but as ‘little in Israel,’ must be with us, now that we are like ‘the thousands of Manasseh,’ or else it is over with us and our day is past.”<sup>1</sup>

~ Charles Spurgeon

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## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss why “boldness” was the defining characteristic of the early church. Would you use the word “boldness” in defining our church?
2. How were these uneducated and untrained men filled with such boldness?
3. How, with what motive, do we need to “ask” the Holy Spirit to fill us?
4. Are you ever too old, too mature as a Christian, to learn more accurately, to grow more?
5. How does the world perceive “boldness” as “meanness”? How can you counter that attitude in your individual interactions?
6. How would you rate yourself on the “boldness” scale? How can you improve?

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Spurgeon, *The Complete Works of C. H. Spurgeon, Volume 3: Sermons 107-164* (Delmarva Publications, Inc., Feb 23, 2015)

# NOTES