

THIS GENERATION NEEDS THE FIRE

The One Who Truly Heals — A Word for This Generation

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PREACHING TEXT

Acts 2:1–4 — “When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place... divided tongues as of fire appeared to them... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:8 — “You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Neutrality is a myth. In 1960 prayer was removed from schools, and something else moved in to fill the void. There are a lot of things in this world that can **HELP** people. There is only One who can truly **HEAL** people. The name of Jesus & the power of the Holy Spirit.

There were 3 types of people around this man:

- People who helped him **GET** to the gate
- People who helped him **WITH money** at the gate
- People God used to **HEAL** him and get him **INSIDE** the gate
- Peter & John: “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you. Rise up and walk.”

“A gifting can fill the room, but the anointing can move the room.”

1 The Holy Spirit Is Essential, Not Optional

Acts 1:4–5

- What this generation **already has** is what you can offer without the Holy Spirit.
- What this generation **is missing** is what you cannot give unless you have the Holy Spirit.
- We cannot compete with culture. Culture will out-produce us. But what we have, culture cannot offer.
- Gen Z is not rejecting spirituality. They are rejecting a **powerless Christianity**.
- They don’t want just the **explanation** of the gospel. They want the **demonstration** of the gospel.
- The Holy Spirit is like gas in a car. You can paint it clean, but without gas it will not reach its destination.
- This generation is getting to a place where enough is enough. They don’t want to repeat the cycle.

A story from the youth ministry:

- Middle school girl. Father in and out of jail. Fell into drugs and alcohol.
- She prayed: “God, if my mom catches me, that’s my sign.” She got caught at school with drugs.

- “*I know the plans I have for you. Trust me. Follow me.*” Holy Spirit spoke. She dropped the drugs and never touched them again.
- Months later she led a 100-student rally at her middle school and preached the gospel.

“*Hype cannot take somebody addicted and cause them to preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit can.*”

- Have a greater desire to **be filled** than to **look filled**.
- Jesus didn’t say they couldn’t. He said **wait**. Without the Holy Spirit we can help, but we cannot heal.

2

The Holy Spirit Gives You Power to Stand in a Bow-Down Culture

“*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...*” **Acts 1:8**

- The only way this generation can withstand the pressure against them is when there is a greater power inside of them.
- This culture wants young people to bow down. To: Compromise, lust, fear, confusion, opinions, popularity, cultural pressure.
- The difference maker is not grades or family. It is the **power of the Holy Spirit**.
- Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
- Before Pentecost, Peter was afraid. After Pentecost, Peter stood boldly. The difference was the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit gives believers power to stand when everyone else is bowing.

3

The Holy Spirit Makes You a Witness

“*You will be My witnesses.*” **Acts 1:8**

- The Holy Spirit is not here to make us weird. He is here to make us a witness.
- Christianity is not waiting for people to come to us. It is going to them. Everywhere in the Bible it is **go**.
- What starts in the upper room didn’t stay in the upper room. It has to spread to other rooms.
- This is not Vegas. What starts in the secret place must go to the public place.
- Take it to your family, your school, the hallways, the classrooms.
- If the church stays silent, culture will disciple our children.
- “*Your sons and daughters will prophesy.*” **Acts 2:17**
- Young people were always part of God’s revival plan.

“*The fire that fell on the upper room was not meant to stay in the upper room. This generation doesn’t need more information. They need the fire.*”