The Essentials of a Growing Church (Part 8)
- The Holy Spirit -
Acts 1:8, 2:37-47

Acts 1:8 (CSB)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:37-47 (CSB)

37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Seven essentials to which the first believers devoted themselves:
(1) Apostles' teaching, (2) Fellowship, (3) Breaking of Bread, (4) Prayer, (5) Giving or Ministering to one another, (6) Praising God or Worship, and (7) Sharing the Good News or Evangelism.

Illustration: Halo-halo (Mix-mix)

1. **The Person of the Holy Spirit.**

   Key point to remember: The Holy Spirit is God, and at the same time he is a Person. In other words, he is God-Person.

   First, the Holy Spirit is God.
   1But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. 2 However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

   3 "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to people but to God." (Acts 5:1-4 CSB)

   Second, the Holy Spirit is a Person.

   "He is the Spirit of truth." (John 14:17a CSB)

“When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father —the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me.” (John 15:26 CSB)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” (John 16:13a CSB)

So, what does it mean for you and me in this present time about the divinity and person of the Holy Spirit?

(1) The Holy Spirit is divine and a member of the Triune God – Trinity. Thus, as a co-equal member, we must honor and worship him as we do for the Father and the Son.

(2) The Holy Spirit is a person. Thus, we can relate to him in a very intimate way.

2. The Presence of the Holy Spirit.

Key point to remember: The Holy Spirit is Present in You as a Believer in Christ. In other words, he lives in you!

5 But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:5-7 CSB)

"Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and ***you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*** *(Acts 2:38).*

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17 CSB)

So, what does it mean for you and me in this present time about the presence of the Holy Spirit?

(1) The Holy Spirit's presence in us assures us that we belong to God in Christ.
(2) The Holy Spirit's presence in us expects us to live for God's glory.
(3) The Holy Spirit's presence is us means we are not alone, no matter what happens.

3. The Power of the Holy Spirit.

Key point to remember: The Holy Spirit Empowers You as a Believer to Live for Christ.

(1) To be a Witness for Christ.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 CSB)

The word "witness" in Greek is "*martyres.*" The English word "martyr" comes from the same root word. In this specific usage, to be a witness includes both your willingness to testify your personal encounter with Christ and your willingness to suffer because of your faith in Christ.

(2) To Commit Yourself Practicing the Seven Essentials.

The Holy Spirit empowers you to do what God has called you to do, particularly committing yourself to practice the seven essentials.

"They devoted themselves to…" (Acts 2:42a CSB)

So, what does it mean for you and me in this present time about the power of the Holy Spirit?

(1) The Holy Spirit empowers us to be bold witnesses of the Good News.
(2) The Holy Spirit empowers us to commit to grow in areas where we need to grow.

Illustrations: Some Renewing Works of the Holy Spirit

Let's pray!

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Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
August 30 & 31, 2025

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