

Lesson #4 The Holy Spirit and the Great Commission

Opening Shot:

The Holy Spirit had been given to the disciples at Pentecost. Because they had received power from the Spirit, as they had been promised by Jesus, they were able to preach powerfully to the crowds of visitors in Jerusalem for the Festival of Pentecost. The visitors each heard the disciples speaking to them in their own language! The effect of the sermon was so powerful that 3,000 people repented that day and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Now that's power! What was next? According to the Great Commission: It was time to tell the whole world!

Introduction to Bible Truths: (OPTIONAL)

Acts 1:4-5 *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* **Acts 1:8** *"...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Ask Me No Questions/ I'll Tell You No Lies:

- 1.) What's a Great Commission? Is it getting paid really well for selling something big?
- 2.) Going off to the ends of the earth to tell other people about Jesus sounds like a really BIG job. Where are we going to get the power to do that?
- 3.) How is the Holy Spirit given to those who believe in Jesus today?

We've Got Questions/ God's Got Answers:

Matthew 28:18-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Zechariah 4:6 *'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.*

Joel 2:28-29 *"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."*

John 3:5-8 *Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

Parting Shot:

Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come, and He did! Jesus also promised that, after they had received power from the Holy Spirit, they would be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. He gave them the Great Commission which was to "go and make disciples of all nations." That is a really BIG job! God actually does this job through the power of the Holy Spirit working in believers. The Holy Spirit is "poured out" on each person who believes in Christ. Jesus said the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Name: _____ Date: _____

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