

Date: **9th April 2017**

Series: **Holy Spirit: The Game Changer**

Topic: **You Shall Receive Power**

As we deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit as our ultimate game changer, especially with regard to our status as Christians and children of God, bear in mind that one of the changes He effects in us, is an enabling to embrace our new nature (Romans 6:6, 9 & 11); giving us constant reminders that we are new creatures in Christ Jesus (Roman 8: 1).

As believers, our most important preoccupation is to focus on the promise of the Father.

“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.” - Acts 1:4-5 NKJV

The Father rules in the affairs of men - can you trust Him to bring the influence of the Game Changer to forever change that negative situation you keep finding yourself in? The influence of the Game Changer, assures us that no matter the circumstance, we are destined to reign above it all, because we carry Christ in us. He came to give us power to be witnesses of and for Him (Acts 1:8) and to manifest the supernatural.

Your need for the Holy Spirit becomes more apparent when you understand that true satisfaction is only available when you encounter God through His Spirit - there is some void in each of us that cannot be filled except by the indwelling presence of our Creator and Father. Like the Samaritan woman who encountered Jesus by a well, we are bound to always be thirsty except we come to the living spring, our all-sufficient God who is a well of living water that does not dry up and the only one who can truly satisfy all our needs (John 4:7-14). The Holy Spirit is another of the same kind [as Jesus], not just around you but living in you.

When the Game Changer indwells you, He guides you and influences your every decision such that solutions are easily provided and barriers quickly broken. When the Holy Spirit comes in, He does the necessary work, you do not have to be perfect to be qualified; some people want to clean house before letting in the Holy Spirit but none of us can clean ourselves up effectively and completely, the Holy Spirit is the one meant to do so. What He is interested in, is the state of your heart, looking for:

- A heart that is willing and prepared to receive: Unlike evil spirits that possess people, the Holy Spirit is not aggressive, He comes in to fellowship with and stay in your heart. He expects an invitation, He does not want to force Himself on us but wants us to openly embrace Him, so He can work a perfect work in us... *Behold He stands at the door and knocks* (Revelations 3:20).

- **A ready heart:** The Holy Spirit does not need a perfect heart but a ready and contrite heart - heart that expresses repentance when wrong and a heart that is dependable or totally surrendered to Him. You can't have a heart of stone and expect the Holy Spirit to come in (Romans 12: 2).

- **An expectant and obedient heart:** He wants a heart that is ready to obey, like how Peter readily and immediately responded to Jesus' word Matthew 14:28-29

The state of your heart, as a Christian, prepares you for the move of Holy Spirit, yet how can you be sure that the Holy Spirit is at work in your life?

1.) He gives you the consciousness of your new nature - the fact and truth that you are not a sinner trying to seek God, but a child of God with direct access. This means that as believers, we may have fallen into sin but because of God's grace assured upon our lives, secured by Christ Jesus' sacrifice at the cross, we are no more sinners. The believer does not live in sin as a lifestyle. When you walk with the Holy Spirit you start to feel confident, there is no condemnation. In place of sin consciousness, the Holy Spirit imparts the consciousness of righteousness in us.

2.) He causes you start manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in your daily life and circumstances; the fruit being love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23)

Remember always, that we are called to witness for Christ - go on and be that mouth-piece for Christ, not just with words but with your life, action (manifestation of the supernatural) and good deeds (Matthew 28:11).