

The Real Thing

Sunday, May 16, 2021

In this series, we have looked at what it means to have THE REAL THING. With Rehoboam standing as an example of someone who replaced THE REAL THING (The Gold Shields with Bronze Shields)

2 Chronicles 12:10-11

10 So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace. **11** Whenever the king went to the Lord's temple, the guards went with him, bearing the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.

And Paul's warning in 2 Timothy chapter 3 that in the last days people would...

2 Timothy 3:5

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

We have seen that THE REAL THING consists of...

A Real God who wants...

A Real Relationship with...

Real People and fill them with...

Real Power

FILLED WITH REAL POWER

Acts 1:1-8

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** 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. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But 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.”

Acts 2:1-4

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:39

39 The promise (of the Holy Spirit) is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 4:31

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:33

33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all

This evening at Sundown, begins the celebration of Shavuot, or the feast of weeks. It is one of three agricultural festivals, the first being Passover and the third one Sukkot or the festival of booths, in the fall

It received its name from the fact that God told them to count off 7 Sabbaths, 7 weeks and 1 day, starting the second day of Passover. In total it was 50 days from the second day of Passover to the start of the festival of weeks. Agriculturally it commemorated the ending of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest

Historically it commemorates the giving of the law on mount Sinai. The Torah says it took 49 days to travel from Egypt (where the first Passover was celebrated, and the Jews were delivered from the bondage of slavery and redeemed as the people of God) to Mount Sinai where on the 50th day they received the law from God with fire smoke and thunderings coming from the mountain.

Because this festival was 50 days from Passover it was also called Pentecost from the Greek word Pentekoste meaning 50

In the New Testament we see the fulfillment of both these feasts and the connections they had to the Old Testament feasts

Jesus was crucified as our Passover Lamb. He delivered us from the bondage of our sins and redeemed us to God. He rose from the grave on the third day and walked with his disciples for 40 days before he ascended. Right before he ascended, he told his disciples to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit. A few days later, 50 days from Passover, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out.

Consider these connections...

- Both events happened to newly redeemed people
- Both events happened 50 days after Passover
- Both events included similar physical Manifestations (sound, wind, fire, lightning, thunder, shaking)
- Both included the revelation of God to empower his people to live according to His Word

John 16:13

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

We know that our God is REAL and that He wants a REAL RELATIONSHIP with REAL PEOPLE and fill them with REAL POWER. But how do we RECEIVE that power in our lives? One final connection between the Old Testament Celebration and the New Testament Fulfillment. The Jewish sages make note of the fact that this Holiday is called "the time of the GIVING of the law" not "the time of the receiving of the law" because we are constantly in the process of RECEIVING the Torah. We RECEIVE it every day, but it was first GIVEN at this time. Likewise, The Gift of The Holy Spirit was first GIVEN on the Day of Pentecost; but the act of RECEIVING the Gift goes on to this day. So how do we RECEIVE the REAL POWER that God wants to fill us with?

BELIEVE In The PROMISE

Luke 24:49

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4-5, 8

4 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. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

8 But 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.” ,

Acts 2:39

39 The promise (of the Holy Spirit) is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

We cannot experience what we do not believe. Like salvation, we must believe in order to receive. Do you believe that God wants to fill you with REAL POWER? Do you believe that Jesus has PROMISED to Baptize you with The Holy Spirit and Fire?

God gives us encounters so that we may believe. Maybe you have had an encounter that encourages you to believe in the promise of The Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It could have been a sermon, or a church service? A camp service? An altar time? Seeing others filled with The Holy Spirit? Spirit empowered prayer? Miracles? Reading and studying the Word of God? A deep hunger for more? A powerful time of worship?

Those encounters were God speaking to you saying... "I want to FILL you with REAL POWER!" "Do you believe in my promise?"

VIDEO: Pastor Choco De Jesus

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Luke 11:9-13

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Asking indicates desire

Ask and keep asking. How bad do you want what God has for you? If kids want something they keep asking and asking...

VIDEO: Pastor De Leon

Seeking speaks of gaining knowledge and understanding

Search the scriptures, read some books, ask God to teach you about the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit
- a deepened reverence for God
- an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work
- and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost

PERSONAL TESTIMONY: Jimmy Swaggart Crusade

Knocking involves continued action and persistence

SPEND TIME In The PRESENCE of God

Acts 1:4

4 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.**”

The gift doesn't come by spending time watching TV. You won't find it by spending time on Facebook. Playing video games, reading a book etc...

We used to have a Sunday nights, Wednesday Nights, prayer meetings

VIDEO: Beth Grant

STEP OUT in FAITH and USE The Gift

The promise has a purpose

Acts 1:1-8

8 But 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.”

VIDEO: Sammuel Hudleston

Step out in faith and let God fill you. Step out in faith and let God take control of your tongue. Step out in faith and don't worry about what The Holy Spirit might make you look like or have you do.

Why should God fill us with a gift that we are not going to use?

One of the failures of the modern-day Pentecostal Church is our reluctance to allow the Holy Spirit to be displayed in our churches and in our personal lives. In our desire to fit in, control and maintain order we have suppressed the manifestation of the Spirit and His gifts.