



LifeSpot ... Power in the Spirit

The Spirit and the Earth

In the beginning, Earth is empty—but wait! God's Spirit trembles with life-giving energy (Genesis 1:2). At the end, Earth is ruined—but wait! The Spirit speeds out with explosive power (Revelation 5:6). In the middle, Earth decays—but wait! God commissions his Spirit for revival. Spirit-filled believers take the wonder of Christ to the ends of the Earth, and eternal life springs up in all sectors of humanity. (Psalm 104:30; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 1:8.) The Spirit is Heaven's electric throb, its personal dynamic power. Without the Spirit, Earth dies. With the Spirit, Earth lives. It's equally true for the church. Knowing this, what will you do with God's Spirit today?

The Spirit and the wind

Jesus finds himself face to face in the darkness with a rigorous defender of historic belief. To Nicodemus he says, *You must be born again. A restart. A reboot of your inner drive. A life-changing encounter at the Cross. A blast of the Holy Spirit. Nothing less will do. The Spirit is mysterious, like the wind. He drives and empowers and refreshes and cleans. It's hard to see his work, easy to spot his results.* Some time later, Jesus' discouraged disciples have the same need—a new start, fresh wind, holy power. A hurricane from Heaven blasts through the room, filling them with the Spirit. A church is born. And today, it must be born again.

The Spirit and fire

Have you been baptized? It's an easy Yes or No—or perhaps not. Listen to John the Baptizer: "I'm baptizing you with water, but the one coming after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Jesus' own baptism was with water and the Spirit together (Luke 3:21-22). But in our experience, complete baptism may take a while. (Acts 1:4-5; 8:15-17; 11:15-16; 19:1-6.) The baptism God wants for us is about both water and fire—not only cleansing, but also empowerment. We are cleansed, but are we fired up? Perhaps years ago you said Yes to a baptism of repentance and water. Are you now saying Yes to a baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire?

The Spirit and water

It was the climax of the Feast of Tabernacles, which included a commemoration of the time when water came from a rock. Jesus stood up and shouted above the din of religious observance. *Thirsty? Come to me and drink. Believe in me, and a torrent of living water will flow from you.* John explains that by this he meant the Spirit. Here we see that it's not enough to have our own spiritual thirst quenched. We drink not just to satisfy ourselves, but until we overflow with the power of the Spirit for people around us. Church, how is it for us right now? Let's drink deeply from Jesus, and ask him to make us a torrent of blessing for a thirsty world.