

Introduction:

- This is part five of our series on the grace of the apostles or apostolic grace.
 - The purpose of this series is to look at the grace that Apostles brought to the early church.
 - Our goal of the series is to see the benefits that apostolic grace brings to the local church.
 - What better place to study that grace than in the Book of Acts, or as many Bibles read, The Acts of the Apostles.
 - As we do this study, we will of course be looking at the characteristics of the apostle, because what the apostle carries is to be for the equipping of the local church!
- We looked at Acts 17:6 Apostolic grace turns the world upside down/Disturbance. The goal is to penetrate a sin-darkened world with the light of Gospel of Jesus Christ/ with Truth! Truth trumps darkness every time. Apostolic grace brings out the warrior in us to confront darkness and change our world!
- We looked Jn 20:21, As the Father sent me so I send you. We saw that as Christians, we are sent with the message of new life in Christ. We are most beautiful when we are doing that. And, we are most compelling to unbelievers when we walk with that ‘sent’ motivation on our insides.
- Weeks 3 & 4 we understood by the word of God that apostolic grace residing in a local church, not only sends them out with a mission but it empowers us as an ambassador of the most high God. Ambassadors see the opportunity and seize it, recognize the obligation and fulfill it, and live with opposition and overcome it.
- I want to talk about the Holy Spirit and Apostolic grace this morning. The Holy Spirit is so intimately involved in the birth and establishment of the early church that we cannot overlook His importance to the church today. **The church that is apostolic in nature has a very unique relationship with the Holy Spirit.**

1. The Holy Spirit and Jesus

- a. I want us to see the Holy Spirit's involvement with all that God does.
 - i. In Gen 1 He hovered over the darkness of the deep waters. When the Word was given, the Holy Spirit released the power of God and things came into being as the Father spoke the word.
 - ii. The Spirit rested upon Joseph, as he became the architect of the plan to save Egypt after interpreting Pharaoh's dream. Gen 41:38.
 - iii. In the Book of Judges, we see the Holy Spirit upon all the judges that freed/delivered Israel from her enemies. Othniel-Jdg 3:10; Gideon Jdgs 6:34; Samson Jdgs 13:24.
 - iv. The Holy Spirit always is involved in creating and in delivering. Two marks of apostolic benefits to the church.
- b. I want us to see the Holy Spirit's involvement with the ministry of Jesus.
 - i. Is 61:1-ff ***The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. ² He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come...*** NLT
 - ii. Lk 3:21-22 ***Jesus was also baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him.*** NLT
 - iii. Acts 10:38 ***And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*** NLT
- c. The Holy Spirit is very apostolic!
 - i. They Holy Spirit has been sent. (Jn 14:26; 16:7,8; Acts 2:4; Gal 4:6)

1. Jn 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things.* NLT
2. Gal 4:6 *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts...*NLT
3. Jesus spoke of both He and the Father sending the Holy Spirit to empower, help, guide and comfort his people. He has been sent from heaven and He too, has a mission!!!

ii. The Holy Spirit sends.

1. As we have already seen, He sent Jesus Is 48:16, a messianic word: *And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.*” NLT
2. He sends messengers who carry the message. 1 Peter 1:12.
3. The Holy Spirit is sent and he himself sends.

iii. The Holy Spirit initiated the very topic of our study apostolic grace/apostolic activity.

1. On the day of Pentecost, Acts 2, apostolic grace was activated in the lives of those in the upper room and POW! The church was born with power and 3000 were saved the first day.
2. Previously ordinary men and women were transformed into an apostolic company because the “Sent Holy Spirit” was completing His mission!!!

iv. The Holy Spirit is apostolic because He is part of the Trinity

1. Jesus is the Great Apostle Heb 3:1.
2. Jesus sent the 12, and 70 to preach and to heal
3. The Father reflected the apostolic spirit when He sent His Son into the world.
4. The Father hears our prayers and sends workers to reap the harvest.
5. All of heaven is caught up in the activity!

2. The Holy Spirit and the 120

a. Acts 1:5 *You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit!* This is what Jesus tells those who are gathered on the mountain before He left. You need to be immersed in the Spirit!

i. John baptized (He immersed) you in water but I will baptize (immerse) you with the Holy Spirit. Baptize speaks of being so immersed that like a cucumber being pickled. It goes all the way through you.

ii. Think about this now. Jesus is saying I want to put the One who was ‘sent’ inside of you.

1. God on my inside! Pickle me Jesus! Creator of the universe living on my inside!
2. Not only is it God on my inside but it is the One who himself has been sent to those who believe! He is on a mission!! Do you think the Holy Spirit is going to return a failure! No Way! God does not report back to God and say, “Sorry, couldn’t do it.”

iii. When God, the sent One with a mission, gets on the inside of a believer...Look out! Not wonder people shake under the power of the Holy Spirit! When the One with the mission assignment arrives on the inside of a believer, that believer cannot help but be sent! He cannot help but be an ambassador! He cannot help but be a warrior sent to uproot, tear down and destroy systems of darkness and establish the Kingdom of God!!!

b. Ezk. 47:8 Water that flows from the throne of God.

i. vs 8 When it reaches the salt sea its waters are healed.

ii. Vs 9 Everything that the water touches lives.

iii. everywhere the water goes lives.

iv. Fishermen will stand along side the river and fish!!! Where ever the water flows souls will be saved! 3000 were saved on the first day in Acts 2.

v. Jn 7:38 *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*”³⁹ *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;*
NLT

- c. Ezk 37:9 Ezekiel prophesies to the ‘ruach’ the breath, the wind, the Holy Spirit and the breath enters the lifeless bodies before Ezekiel and they lived! They stood! A mighty army of God!
 - i. When God raises up an army it is for the purpose of dominion! God is on a mission! He has sent His Spirit on a mission and we are sent on a mission—that not one would perish! 2 Peter 3:9.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit may cause a rattling at first but know that when the breath enters a dead man he is alive!
- d. Apostolic grace brings benefits to the church that the church must have to be powerful in the earth. It was given to perfect and to equip the saints according to Eph 4.
 - i. When the Holy Spirit came in, they became witnesses! They just didn’t go out to witness they literally became the witness. You could see Jesus in their lives, the way they lived they lives and for whom they lived their lives. They loved their live not unto death. ie 33 Christians set to be executed in NK.
 - ii. When you are filled with the One sent with a mission, your life is all about the mission! That is what makes ordinary Christians apostolic. What are you living for? Yes, I know you have a job and a family but what is the mission? Wreck the darkness in your sphere of influence, establish and build the Kingdom of God...one life at a time if you have to!

3. The Holy Spirit and You

- a. The Holy Spirit was not just given to the early church in the book of Acts. He was given to anyone who would believe to receive Him. I have been talking for four weeks now on the benefits that the apostle brings to the local church.
 - i. Invaders of darkness. Plundering hell to populate heaven! Spiritual warfare through prayer and witness.
 - ii. We are the sent ones meaning we have mission to accomplish given to us by God.
 - iii. We go as ambassadors of the Most High God.
 - iv. Our message, power and strength come from the Holy Spirit.
 - v. This is a picture of the early church. It is also a picture of the church today that goes in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. You were not made for the safety of the ‘upper room’—you were saved for adventure!
 - i. You are an Acts 1:8 moment: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses...*NLT This was an Apostolic Jesus speaking to an apostolic church (about to be born) who would do apostolic wonders all over the earth.
 - ii. You represent another Kingdom now! Your life is not your own.
- c. How do I receive the Holy Spirit?
 - i. By faith Jn 7:38 He who believe out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (Holy Spirit)
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is a person. You are not receiving water, wind, or oil. Those are symbols used to speak of Him.

Conclusion: The church that is apostolic in nature has a very unique relationship with the Holy Spirit.