

## **“Power Up”**

Acts 2:1-21

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### **Communion Devotion**

Today is Pentecost on the Christian calendar. On this historic day, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples like a violent wind and flaming tongues.

What occurred next shocked even the disciples. Immediately upon receiving the Holy Spirit, they left the room where they were gathered and went into the streets, proclaiming the gospel in ways people from every nation understood.

As impressed as those who witnessed this miraculous event were, the disciples had to be in awe of what God enabled them to do. They knew they were incapable of doing what they had just done. The Holy Spirit who descended upon them moments before made this possible.

This is why theologian, scholar, professor and preacher, Dr. George Buttrick, asserts this was the first time the disciples associated the Spirit of God with power. Prior to this, the disciples associated God’s Spirit with comfort, encouragement, enlightenment, guidance and conviction. They seemed to be, however, unaware of the empowering role the Spirit would play in their lives.

This changed when they boldly walked out of that room after the Spirit descended upon them and began speaking to people from all over the world in ways they understood. Only God could make this possible.

Now they understood why Jesus was adamant about them staying in Jerusalem until they had been “clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49) He told them this ten days earlier before returning to be with his Father in heaven.

Jesus knew the one thing lacking in their lives that was necessary for them to continue the work he began with them was power from on high. Without God’s empowering Spirit, they would fail and this dream of transforming the world through the redemptive power of love would die.

**How did Jesus know about God’s empowering Spirit?** Why was he so confident God would descend upon the disciples and give them the gift of his presence and power?

Look at the elements on this table. What do the bread and juice symbolize?

They remind us of the many sacrifices Jesus made on our behalf, including his own life. They symbolize faithfulness in the face of great danger and what appeared to be insurmountable challenges.

Who enabled Jesus to do the difficult? Who gave him strength when his was depleted? Who provided him with courage when he walked alone into the eye of a storm?

You know the answer, and on Pentecost the disciples did, too.

I don’t know what problem you are wrestling with today, what opportunity has come your way, what challenge you are facing or what unfamiliar road you are traveling down, but I know this. You will make better decisions and do far more than you think if you let the Holy Spirit walk alongside you and help you.

God, through the Holy Spirit, will do for you what he did for Jesus and Luke’s readers. God will give you the ability to do things you have never done, the confidence you need to believe you can and the courage to overcome your fears and take risks.

Take advantage of this time of solitude as the elements are passed to talk to the Lord. Ask God to lead, guide and empower you as you embark on a new week of challenges and opportunities.