



#8 “POWER AND RESPONSE ”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Notes

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.” Luke 4:14

Responses to the Power of the Holy Spirit are both...

PASSIONATE & POLARIZING

³⁷ *Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him...⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God. John 12: 37, 42-43*

I. Acts 4:1 – 4

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. ² They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. ³ They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. ⁴ But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

Holy Spirit Power RESULTS IN GROWTH

Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. Galatians 6:7-8 MSG

II. Acts 4:5 – 12

⁵ The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were

Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family.⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed,¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.¹¹ He is " 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.'¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Holy Spirit Power REVISES OUR THEOLOGY

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you.²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:23-26

III. Acts 4:13 – 22

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.¹⁵ So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.¹⁶ "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.¹⁷ But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."¹⁸ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.²⁰ For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."²¹ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.²² For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

Holy Spirit Power WILL EVOKE RETALIATION

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:12-14 NLT

“There is an antagonism today, against the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but more importantly there’s an antagonism against his personhood, against his presence. And when the presence of God comes into your sanctuary and into your life, you will find that you have antagonism, that you are frightened and put off and bewildered and upset, perplexed and vexed, against the very God you have been inviting to come for years and move among you.” JW

IV. Acts 4:23-31

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. ²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 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.

Holy Spirit Power STRENGTHENS OUR RESOLVE

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the

reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 1Peter 3:13-18