

Even Stranger Things

Part 04

Intro

1. We have seen strange things today.

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:6-7

2. Acts 2:6, 2:12 - bewildered, perplexed (strange)

On the day of Pentecost[a] all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the

province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

Acts 2:1-12

3. Link to Stranger Things - Eleven's powers. They were so amazed by her powers (show clip on when they first recognised her powers/when she saved Mike from the cliff); and they were completely dependant on her powers to win.
4. Holy Spirit has been given to us - The outward signs of being baptised in the Holy Spirit seemed strange to everyone, but there was power in the believers!
 - a. Everyone who became a believer (Acts 8:15-16, 10:44-47, baptised in water, and immediately Holy Spirit)
 - b. Holy Spirit is for everyone
 - c. Holy Spirit is an essential, not an option. (Acts 1:4, don't leave until)
5. How do we walk effectively in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I. Strange Things Happen Through Us When We Understand Their Purpose

A. Effectiveness depends on an understanding of purpose.

Use something for the wrong purpose, it's not effective.

(Pokemon - Razor Leaf on Charizard. Mario Kart - Dry Bowser on a Mario Circuit, no frenzy)

1. To use something effectively, gotta understand it's original intent
Objects with strange purposes

2. Primary purpose of HS demonstrated by first time it was released: Salvation

B. The primary purpose for us to receive the Holy Spirit is to be His witnesses.

1. He enables us to be witnesses. Acts 1:8
2. He guides and empowers us to build His body. Eph 4:12
3. God won't give purpose without provision - purpose is to be a witness. Provision is the Holy Spirit.
4. What we have isn't enough! We need the Holy Spirit!

C. The Holy Spirit was also given for us as our comforter and counsellor (John 14:26).

1. Not just to be your buddy or Santa Claus, but we also cannot through life without HS.
2. Major life decisions, knowing the mind and thoughts of God.

II. Strange Things Happen When We Allow Them To

The disciples obeyed Jesus to wait in the upper room for Holy Spirit to be poured out on them.

A. Holy Spirit leads us into all truth (John 16:13).

If we want to know the mind and thoughts of God, we need to first be LED by Him.

B. To be led means to submit yourself to, to be obedience to.

C. We can be selective in areas that we allow Holy Spirit to lead us in.

1. How much knowledge is dependent on Holy Spirit
2. How much you're led into is dependent on YOU.

D. Whatever we don't allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in, we cut ourselves off from God's truth.

III. Strange Things Happen When We Are Available

The disciples didn't have to do anything to receive Holy Spirit, they simply showed up.

A. Everyone present was filled by the Holy Spirit!

1. They didn't need to do anything special to be filled and used, they just had to be present.
2. Consistency, making sure you show up, ensures you don't miss the breakthrough!

B. How much you receive depends on how much of you is available.

1. God has no limit to what He can pour out
2. We can have a limit on what we can receive

C. Be available in...

1. Our expectation
 - We don't just come waiting for *something* to happen.
 - The disciples were praying and gathered because of Jesus' instructions!
 - We know God has given us a promise - we are expecting a harvest and a breakthrough!
E.g. God spoke about campuses, what are we expecting for it?
2. Our preparation
 - It took time to set aside and seek God before the Holy Spirit came.
 - Are we seeking God and praying up for the harvest that is coming? Are we making time in our schedules to do Next Step with those coming in?
 - Ask for the Holy Spirit to fill you and prepare you!

3. Our action

- After being filled, the disciples WENT OUT of the room.
- We need to get out and invite someone, confirm and bring someone!

Conclusion

1. Understand God's purpose for the Holy Spirit.
2. All we need to do is to avail ourselves to be filled by Him
3. ***BIG PLACE TO LAND: Holy Spirit is for witnessing, that's what Fright Night is. PEOPLE GETTING SAVED.

Salvation Call

1. God has a great purpose for you and empowers you to do it!
2. The first step is to receive Him into your own life.

Ministry Time

1. Ask for more of the Holy Spirit to fill and empower us.
2. Pray for supernatural open doors to invite and open hearts to hear and be saved.

THOUGHTS for PART IV

Holy Spirit is ESSENTIAL. Never leave you - why else would Jesus say that.

- We need holy spirit every moment of every day

Love me, obey my commandments.

- Only way to obey his commandments is with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Leads us into all truth, HS will convict and warn you. Will you choose to listen or ignore?

Stranger Things Tie In

- Strange things. Bewilder and perplex you. You're like !?!!
- Read verse.
- Acts 2:6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were **bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.**
- Acts 2:12 They stood there amazed and **perplexed.**
- **Last week talked about strange fights**
 - Go into every fight knowing you're not alone
 - Holy Spirit is with you

God doesn't give you something to do, without giving you what you need to do it.

All the believers were meeting together in one place (only 120, where were the thousands?).

- This is why it's important to show up. You miss something, others miss something.
- Everyone **present**, all it took was for them to be present.

Result of this: Salvation, 3000 people. Power to be witnesses comes from Holy Spirit. Can't win your generation without him.

What we have is not enough.

- Your own gifting, talent, ability, is not enough to win your generation
- Not even enough to live your life the way God intends it.

How much the Holy Spirit can pour out depends on him.

How much you receive depends on you.

How much truth Holy Spirit can lead you into depends on him.

How much you are led by him depends on you.

You can exclude Holy Spirit from areas in your life because of the decisions you make.

Available, Ready, Obedient