

FIRED UP

This past week, I was talking to our leaders and I spoke with passion and showed energy as I gave the talk. Afterwards, one of the gents who was in the meeting came to me and said “tell me, how do you manage to have so much energy on a Thursday after a long week?” – The truth of matter is before I had gotten up to speak, I was not feeling it, I was feeling so tired but surely something must have happened whilst I began to talk.

Personally I have run out of energy and motivation over the course of doing things, I am not sure about you.

Have you ever wondered how your life would look like if you could have unlimited motivation, unlimited strength, unlimited courage?

I am talking about living a life as if you are superman, spiderman, black Panther of the kingdom of Wakanda.

Just dream with me for a moment – there is nothing wrong with stretching your imagination for a moment. There is power in your imagination – in actual fact I believe that the way you imagine tends to speak of your potential and what you will ultimately achieve in life.

Now, lets begin to imagine what type of life you would be living now:

- If you had access to all the knowledge you need at all times – I mean if you want to write an exam, you would know what to study.
- If you had the wisdom you need for every situation you face – wisdom is simply to know what to do next in any given situation
- If you had the ability to know which way to go whenever you feel lost
- If you knew what was going on in someone else’s life – I am talking about knowing that your mum is sick right now and she needs your prayer.

I am sure you can see that your life would be totally different from the way it looks right now.

Now what if I tell you that you can have access to that kind of ability, what would you do? Maybe you could start asking me, what the price tag to get that ability is.

I want you to hold onto that mind for the coming 5 weeks, as we explore the answer to that question. Say to your neighbor, you look tired, you look discouraged - now scream at them and say “Get Fired up!”

That is the theme of our upcoming series – FIRED UP – A case for the Holy Spirit

FIRED UP

People get fired up by different things and for different reasons.

To be fired up means to cause someone to feel more passionate or excited about someone or something.

People get fired up by different things:

- Some by the love for someone
- The desire to achieve their dreams
- By sheer competition – some people are very competitive by nature
- The need to avoid embarrassment.

As for you and me, nothing gets us going like the power of the Holy Spirit. In the absence of the fire of the Holy Spirit every other form of motivation will die down over time.

When you are fired up by the Holy Spirit, limitations will be broken, what seemed out of reach will become reachable.

The Holy Spirit is the real deal which you cannot afford to ignore!

- If there is anyone who is very crucial in the life of a believer, is the Holy Spirit and yet He is the least known about and where He is known about, He is greatly misunderstood.
- The Holy Spirit has perhaps been the most neglected member of the Godhead in terms of our personal understanding and awareness.
- The main reason is that the Holy Spirit always points away from Himself and to the Son and to the Father.
- If we are going to get to know the Spirit, we will have to search the Scriptures to find out about Him

So where do we start? – lets go to the beginning. I want to show you two instances that the Holy Spirit was mentioned. The first time that something is mentioned in the Bible has a lot to teach us about that specific principle.

We are going to start with the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament that was done by the Lord Jesus:

Matthew 10:18 "You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.19 "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 "for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

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- Jesus had spent some time with the disciples and in this moment, we catch Him sending out the 12. He told them of what was going to happen to them.
- He told them of being brought before national leaders – He told them that a special ability was going to come upon them, the ability to speak was going to be enabled by the Spirit of God.
 - The Holy Spirit comes from God and is God in that regard - He is not a force because God is not a force, He is a person with personalities
- Lets look at the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the entire Bible
Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- It is written - *And the Spirit of God;* the Spirit, God's Spirit was present at creation and is the means by which He does His work. We can split out different types of God's work.
 - God's work is creation.
 - God's work is redemption.
 - God's work is salvation.
 - God's work is governance.
- The Holy Spirit is behind every good work that a believer can do.
- Just before Jesus died, He started to prepare His disciples – you will agree with me that a person who is about to die will not waste time telling you fairy tails, they will maximize their time with you.

Lets look at one of those moments that Jesus had with His disciples:

John 16:5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

- In the moment of sorrow, Jesus brings up something profound – He tried to convince the disciples that they were about to enter a better dispensation.
- Losing Jesus was the last thing that the disciples wanted to experience – in their hearts Jesus was all that they needed in order to grow in ministry.
- Sometimes for you to move to your next level, you need to let go of the current level

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- Jesus needed to die in order for the disciples to grow
- Jesus was pointing them to something much better and they needed to walk by faith that losing Jesus was actually better for them – He said it was to their advantage that He should go.
- What was the advantage?
 - Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to be everywhere at the same time
 - Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to be inside each disciple and not just around them
 - Christ's bodily presence draws men's eyes but his Spirit draws their hearts
- Though Jesus had spent three and bit years with His disciples, when it came to fulfilling His mission on earth, He did not think they were up for the challenge.

Acts 1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

- Having given them the great commission, one would have thought that Jesus would then start strategizing with them how to go about the mission.
- Instead, He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit – Don't embark on a God given mission without the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus did not trust them to do a proper job without the help of the Holy Spirit –

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- The word power here refers to all the help or aid which the Holy Spirit would grant; the power of
 - speaking with new tongues;
 - preaching the gospel with great effect;
 - enduring great trials,
- The power here promised is not authority, for this he had given them in the commission; but it is that miraculous power to know all the truth, and work miracles in proof of their mission
- A man may be highly talented, intensively trained, and widely experienced, but without spiritual power he is ineffective.
- A man may be uneducated, unattractive, and unrefined, yet endowed with the Holy Spirit he will impact the world for God.

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- The Holy Spirit makes you an effective witness of Jesus
- He wanted them to be effective in their mission field, to refute all the doubt that existed in the minds of the unbelievers.