

LET GOD ARISE!

The Wondrous Cross #5

Prayer Guide for Kingdomtide • Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis



Send Out Your Light and Truth

Psalm 42, 43

There's a New Wind Blowing

Don L. Davis

There's a New Wind blowing through our body,
Gentle breezes of the Holy Spirit,
We feel His pow'r, we feel His love,
Bringing vision, blessing, and joy!
There's a strong wind blowing through our hearts now,
A new rushing, coming from the Father,
Please, blow upon us, Holy Spirit of God,
You're the New Wind that is blowing in this place!

There's a River running through Mount Zion,
Mighty rapids of the Lord's compassion,
We feel His strength, we know His peace,
Bringing cleansing, justice, and grace!
There's a river flowing deep within us,
A refreshing given by our Savior,
Please, flow within us, Holy Spirit of God,
You're the River that is flowing in this place!

There's a New Fire burning in our spirits,
Blazing flames burn leading us to serve God,
We feel His warmth, we sense His light,
Bringing boldness, healing, and truth!
There's a burning causing all to ponder,
A rekindling fueled by the Spirit,
Please, burn in our hearts, Holy Spirit of God,
You're the New Fire that is burning in this place!

There's a Fresh Oil streaming down His people,
Sweet aroma of the Lord, the Spirit,
We feel His heart, we trust His will,
Bringing mercy, goodness, and life!
There's a sweet oil pouring from the Lord's hand,
An anointing flowing down from heaven,
Please, fall down on us, Holy Spirit of God,
You're the Fresh Oil that is streaming in this place!

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The Coming of the Holy Spirit

A Song of Seeking God and Praise

(Note: in many Hebrew manuscripts, Psalms 42 and 43 are a single psalm)

Ps. 42.1-43.5 – Book Two. To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. [2] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? [3] My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?” [4] These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival. [5] Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation [6] and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. [7] Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me. [8] By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. [9] I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” [10] As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?” [11] Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

[43.1] Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! [2] For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? [3] Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! [4] Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. [5] Why are you



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cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

The Promise of the Spirit's Coming

Luke 24.44-49 – Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” [45] Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, [46] and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Isa. 44.3-4 – For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. [4] They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.

Isa. 59.20-21 – “And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the Lord.[21] “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,” says the Lord, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

Joel 2.28 – And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

John 14.16-17 – And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the



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world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 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 that I have said to you.

John 15.26 – But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

John 16.7-16 – 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 go, I will send him to you. [8] And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [10] concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; [11] concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. [12] I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13] When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. [14] He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [16] A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.

Acts 1.1-8 – In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. [3] To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. [4] And while staying with them he ordered them not to



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depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” [6] So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” [7] He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Power of the Holy Spirit

John 7.37-39 – On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” [39] Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Matt. 12.28 – But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

John 3.3-5 – Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” [4] Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” [5] Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

1 Cor. 6.11 – And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



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Acts 1.8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Rom. 15.17-20 – In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. [18] For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, [19] by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; [20] and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2.1-21 – When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. [2] And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. [3] And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. [5] Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. [6] And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. [7] And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? [8] And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? [9] Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10] Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, [11] both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” [12] And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” [13] But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”



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[14] But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. [15] For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. [16] But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

[17] ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; [18] even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. [19] And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; [20] the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. [21] And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church

Acts 2.38 – And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Rom. 8.9 – You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Eph. 1.13-14 – In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



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1 Cor. 6.19-20 – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Cor. 12.13 – For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Cor. 12.1-7 – Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. [2] You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. [3] Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. [4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Rom. 12.6-8 – Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; [7] if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; [8] the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

2 Cor. 1.22 – and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Eph. 4.30 – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 John 3.24 – Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



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1 Pet. 4.10-11 – As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: [11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Titus 3.4-7 – But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, [5] he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, [6] whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, [7] so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2 Cor. 5.5 – He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2 Thess. 2.13-14 – But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. [14] To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 8.14-16 – For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

1 Cor. 2.10-13 – these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. [11] For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [12]



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Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13] And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

2 Cor. 3.12-18 – Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, [13] not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. [14] But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. [15] Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. [16] But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. [17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [18] And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Our Obedience to the Holy Spirit

Gal. 5.16-26 – But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17] For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. [19] Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [25] If we live by the Spirit,



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let us also walk by the Spirit. [26] Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Rom. 8.12-14 – So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13] For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. [14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Gal. 5.25 – If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Gal. 6.8 – For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Eph. 4.30 – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Eph. 5.15-21 – Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. [18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, [19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, [20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21] submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

1 Thess. 5.16-21 – Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. [19] Do not quench the Spirit. [20] Do not despise prophecies, [21] but test everything; hold fast what is good.



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Jude 1.19-21 – It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. [20] But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; [21] keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ■

Send Out Your Light and Truth

Ps. 43.3-4 – Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! [4] Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

The Excruciating Pain of Waiting

IN A true-to-life depiction of kids in an episode of the “The Simpsons,” Bart, Lisa, and Maggie (who sucks a pacifier with great meaning) are told that they are going to a family outing to one of their favorite places. Dramatically enthused and titanically impatient, they begin to badger Homer as he drives them to their destination with a machine-gun like begging and asking a question which, through the episode, they ask to the point of nausea. Over and over and over again, the kids look impatiently and insistently to Homer (crying in a way that only kids can do to folks when they are impatient), “*Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?*”

Their persistence, irritation, and meddling makes for a good laugh, but, in a very real way, it reminds me of our microwave-able culture of today, and the excruciating pain we all seem to have in waiting.

Are you a person who can wait well? In my judgment there are people who wait for things poorly, and those who wait for them well.

Those who wait for things poorly, i.e., the impatient, seem to bring more problems on themselves simply because they lack the will or the knowledge



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to wait. Something is promised, and it has that all-too-often time tag clamped on its price. In other words, in order to get it, you'll have to wait for it, let the time pass, let it come to fruition, let the time elapse, let it happen in its own time. However you want to say it, however it may come, you are obliged to wait for it to occur, and it will occur in its own time. For those who wait poorly, from the very moment they were told they couldn't get it right away, right now, they began to scheme how to cut the time down, to provide a substitute, or "crash the line." You see it all around you—at concerts, in airports, at the movies, in the shopping mall. It simply does not take much effort to identify the common human being who is cursed with the inability to wait, and its requisite and complementary tension, stress, and selfishness associated with it.

On the other hand, though, there are those who wait well. They are those rare but mature people who understand that you simply cannot "jump the gun" with what is best and expect things to work out. Every harvest has its season, every accomplishment has its end, and every victory has its rules and timetables. These people are fully aware that things will neither happen quickly nor necessarily when they want them to, and have learned the art of enjoying the wait, of learning through it, of passing the time with calm assurance and great anticipation. They do not see waiting as a waste, nor do they see others who are waiting as combatants. They don't look for shortcuts, they don't crash the line, and they don't jump the gun. They wait, and they learn to wait well.

Many of us have been waiting decades to see the hand of God in revival to impact and transform the inner cities of America and the world. We have been pining, working, longing for an outpouring of his Holy Spirit upon the unreached neighborhoods which still have yet to swear allegiance to the Risen Savior. We have waited long years after patient sowing in what appeared to be open and promising neighborhoods, only to see none of the seeds sprout, or even worse, actually come to see all the little seedlings fall,



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wither, and die. Who has not been involved in urban ministry and not tasted the enemy's laughter in the face of our defeat, or prolonged setback after setback, or tragic backsliding in the face of what appeared to be real transformation? Who hasn't felt the urge to quit, or heard the sirens of an alternative vocation out of the pastorate, out of missions, out of Christian work, to do anything except this terrible work of serving without fruit, without power, without change? Who hasn't wanted to stop and find another "line of work," as if one could deny one's call as easy as changing one's job?

Yes, if you know the Lord and have served in the city, you have come to know the excruciating pain of waiting.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

The cycle of the Church Year is wonderful tonic for the restless soul. What caused the timid, frightened, shivering disciples to become world-changing-upside-down-turning messengers of the Most High God? What caused the three-time betrayer to become the apostle given the keys of the Kingdom, opening the kingdom to all believers in his first inaugural sermon of the Kingdom? What made the little Jesus group swell hundreds of times within only a few days of their unique experience?

The answer is simple, and known by all believers. The Holy Spirit, he is the one who changed everything. And he was the promise given to those who wait.

After our Lord rose from the dead, he proved himself alive to the apostles by many infallible proofs, to cement in their consciousness the reality of this Kingdom-displaying resurrection which serves as the foundation of our faith. The Lord Jesus is alive, and all his promises are yes and amen:



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2 Cor. 1.17-20 – Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? [18] As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. [19] For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. [20] For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Indeed, with the sin debt paid, the curse rescinded, and the devil defeated, the promises of God were all yes and amen, to God’s glory. His living presence showed without a doubt that he was the Christ, that the sin issue had been resolved through his victory over sin, death, hades, the devil, the curse, and over judgment. Jesus of Nazareth was verified to be God’s Servant, the anointed Lord and Christ, and victory was certain and sure for all who believed.

Still, they were told to wait.

The promise of the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would be transformed. Their task, with the Lord alive and on full display, was not to do anything, to go anywhere, to start anything until they waited and the power of God would fall upon them.

Luke 24.44-49 – Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” [45] Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, [46] and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am



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sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Yes, they were witnesses of “these things,” i.e., the sufferings and the glory of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, in his incarnation, his suffering, and his resurrection. They were eyewitnesses to the gall and the glory, they were present and accounted for when it all occurred, and they were chosen to bear witness to what they saw and heard to the entire world. They were unique, they were blessed, and they were favored.

Still, they were told to wait.

Of course, he had alluded to this in the Upper Room before his passion and death. He had assured them that he would come to them in the person of the Spirit, who, as Another Helper, would be sent from the Father to enable them to do their work. There could be no shortcut or alternative plan; apart from the leading and the presence of the Holy Spirit, their work would be worthless and their mission fruitless.

John 14.16-17 – And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 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 that I have said to you.

John 15.26 – But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.



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John 16.7-16 – 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 go, I will send him to you. [8] And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [10] concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; [11] concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. [12] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13] When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. [14] He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [16] A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.”

Yes, the Lord had assured them of the necessity of his presence and power in order to accomplish their work. If they were to fulfill God’s plan, they would have to wait (not long, but wait still) until they were endowed with power from on high, for without the Spirit nothing is possible or lasting (Zech. 4.6).

Send Out Your Power and Your Light

The great epic Story of our Lord’s resurrection, ascension, and the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost all underscore one of the most basic lessons of the Christian life and Christian mission. Only if God supplies the power and the fruit, only if he endues us with power from on high, then and only then can we truly expect to see the fruit our hearts long for in the harvest field. Like the apostles, no one can serve the Lord without being filled with the presence and person of the Holy Spirit, for he alone can work in and through us what God desires and demands. He alone provides the gifts, calls the leaders, empowers his witnesses, illumines his Word, blesses his people,



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and leads the Church into the fullness of Christ for the glory of God. No amount of planning, organization, strategizing, or effort can accomplish what the unction and anointing of the Holy Spirit can do.

In an era steeped in a culture that swears by its own ability, its technology, its cleverness and advertisements, its marketing brilliance and planning genius, we desperately need to learn how to wait. Only when we can wait will we look for power outside ourselves. Only when we can wait will we recognize how bankrupt and broken we truly are. Only when we can wait will we pray the prayer of the psalm, Psalms 42-43 and plead with our God to send forth his power and light, his enablement and anointing, his light and truth.

Ps. 43.3-4 – Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! [4] Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

If God does not send the Spirit to us, we have neither light nor truth; we cannot understand the Word and cannot declare it clearly, we cannot face the demonic foes nor rise above the noise and clatter of the world to declare Christ Jesus Lord of all. Only by the Spirit can we stand, can we move, and can we advance. “Then he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts’” Zech. 4.6 (ESV).

Learning to Wait Well, Again

In the song I wrote commemorating the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, I allude to some of the great images of the Spirit in Scripture: the wind, the river, the fire, and the oil. The Spirit is mighty, like a hurricane or whirlwind, refreshing like the river, cleansing like the fire, and anointing as the oil. All we need for life, godliness, and witness are supplied in him, and



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he alone can lead us into maturity and fruitfulness, for the glory of God through Christ.

Will you seek the face of God and learn to wait on his supply and anointing through the Holy Spirit? Will you confess your nervousness and stress, your inability to wait well and long, and ask God for the grace to resign yourself to the flow of the River who is the Spirit? Can you learn to wait well again?

Every Celebration of Pentecost, and every Season after Pentecost are seasons to remind you of the blessedness of waiting before God till he sends his light and his truth in the person of his Spirit. He is our Comforter and Guide, the *Paraclete*, the One called alongside to help the Church fulfill its calling under its Head and Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone can make us whole, he alone can make us fruitful.

“Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet?” ■

The Season after Pentecost: The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Luke 24.46-49 – And said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1.8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.



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**Biblical Principle of the Season:
Seek the Lord Sacrificially with Passion and Desire**

During this Season after Pentecost, we affirm our helplessness and emptiness apart from the empowering guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit. Now through the Holy Spirit, the Church is led by Another Helper, sent from the Father and the Son to guide us into all truth, and make us ready and able witnesses of God's sovereign grace displayed in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Having sealed us as God's very own till the day of redemption, and serving himself as the guarantee of the future inheritance of the Lord, we submit to the Holy Spirit's leading, walking in his power and strength, and expecting him to confirm the Word of Christ with signs and wonders for Jesus' sake. Only through the Spirit can we accomplish God's will, and only through his filling and leading can we bear witness to the Kingdom to the end of the earth, within the cities of America and the world.

John 14.16-17 – And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 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 that I have said to you.

Mic. 3.8 – But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

Zech. 4.6 – Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”



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An Example of Transformation by the Holy Spirit: Peter

Acts 2.38-39 – And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”



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