

“Pentecost 2026 – “What Kind of Power?”

The Ministry of the Spirit

May 24, 2026

[SGC Statement of Faith]

**10. The Empowering Ministry of the Spirit**

**The Filling of the Spirit**

When Christ ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, ushering in a greater experience of God’s presence and power among his people.<sup>[1]</sup> The Spirit transforms hearts by the miracle of regeneration<sup>[2]</sup> and indwells all believers in abundant, new covenant measure.<sup>[3]</sup> The Spirit also desires to fill God’s people continually with increased power for Christian life and witness.<sup>[4]</sup> To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence,<sup>[5]</sup> more aware of his presence,<sup>[6]</sup> and more effective in his service.<sup>[7]</sup> All Christians, therefore, must continually seek to be filled with the Spirit<sup>[8]</sup> by living and praying in such a way that invites the Spirit’s work among us, actively longing for God to accomplish his gracious purposes in us and through us. The filling of the Spirit brings to God’s people a deeper knowledge of Christ,<sup>[9]</sup> an increased desire for holiness,<sup>[10]</sup> a stronger commitment to unity and love, a greater fruitfulness in ministry, and a deeper gratitude for our salvation.<sup>[11]</sup>

**INTRO...** Pentecost Meets the Graduation Ceremony

2 KEY Commencement Content Angles: (1) "Change the World" ...(2) "You-Do-You"

... That's Not Too Far Removed from PENTECOST (the Ceremony of the Disciples Graduation) ... (1) "Go Change the World!" ...(2) "You Can't, so You'll Need POWER"

...Today is PENTECOST—a Long-Awaited Mile Marker in God’s BIG STORY!

*"When Christ ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, ushering in a greater experience of God's presence and power among his people."*

**"When Christ Ascended"**

Acts 2 ...is a "**Biblical Theology Presentation**" ...the way that Peter explains the Pentecost Manifestation is to explain God's Big Plan!!

Acts 2:1-4 ...Heaven Engages Earth on This Long Awaited Day

Acts 2:14-18 ...Long Awaited Mile Marker!!! ...A Day with Noticeable Characteristics!

Acts 2:22-33 ... "this Jesus" ...&... a "definite plan and foreknowledge of God"

v. 33 ...the Crescendo of Peter’s Message/Explanation

- "**The Ascension**" was a Big Deal! ...

**NOTE: "Thrones/Authority" are a Big Deal in Scripture! ...**

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over

Mark 1:22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Luke 10:17-19 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

<sup>18</sup> And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Acts 1:3 "He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." [the "KINGDOM" of God]

Col 1:13 <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Matt 28:18-19 "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>

Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations..."

"Although sin and separation from God followed closely on the heels of this original charge, the creation mandate has been reiterated to the people of God throughout Scripture. The final and ultimate reiteration of this mandate is the Great Commission, which Jesus gave to his disciples before his ascension. Therefore, the creation mandate is on-going..." **William Edgar**, "The Creation Mandate", TGC

## BIG STORYLINE

**...In Gen 1:26ff man is given an "image-bearing assignment"! God has set up earth in such a way that the Infinite, Transcendent Creator would be present through a PROXY! ARRANGEMENT:**

- **Adam** = Dust (earth) + Breath (Ruach - spirit)
- **Eden** = a Unique place of God's presence; a place of fellowship & worship; access to the Tree of Life (that would flow into the earth)
- **FROM HERE - Man is to "fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over it"**

"...the mandate orders that mankind subdue the earth. The word for subduing (kabash) is not meant to be violent, but gentle. It is perhaps not coincidental that the three aspects of the mandate are reflected in our English word (inherited from the Medieval French) for "culture." Cult referring to worship is one derivative. Colonization meaning to spread to other parts of the world is another. And coulter means, literally, the cutting edge of the plow, or what we ordinarily call cultivation." **William Edgar**, "The Creation Mandate", TGC

**-- ie, the mandate of our lives is to "establish a "GOD-CULTURE" on Earth"!!**

**A Huge Graduation Ceremony CLUE—Matt 6:9-10** "Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

...INSIGHT: Life is Bigger Than YOU - You will need to appeal to a power outside of yourself!

...INSIGHT: There is a HEAVEN and what is there is vitally connected to what is here on earth!

...INSIGHT: There exists a "Will" and a "Kingdom" that is to be brought into the earth!

NOTE: THAT doesn't start in Matt 6! ...that started in **Gen 1:27-28**

**SO... from the original design, man was to be God's Proxy—His image bearer** (his representative, his expression) that would further God's purpose outside of Eden and into the whole world!

**BUT... when man and the world FELL in Gen 3 ...the Authority of This World SHIFTED and creation became CORRUPTED & RESISTANT! ...Satan was even referred to as "The GOD OF THIS WORLD"**

**...Jesus came to RETAKE AUTHORITY—AS A MAN!!** ...what Adam lost must be regained By a Man!!

SUMMARY ...NOW that Jesus has accomplished "The Ascension" (ie, the Re-Enthronement of Man on Earth) & has "Satisfied (propitiated)" God's Righteousness & Wrath (Extending to Us Forgiveness by His Blood & Reconciliation/Access)—THE SPIRIT can Be RESTORED to MAN!!

**"When Christ ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, ushering in a greater experience of God's presence and power among his people."**

## **What Kind of POWER?**

**THIS...** Brings us to **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.*"

...If I start my "study of Pentecost" with revivals of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century or some current debate about cessationism or what's an appropriate manifestation of the Spirit—(1) I think that's the Wrong Starting Place [because it's NOT the Bible!] ...(2) Your approach is trying to answer a debate, while God's approach is seeking to Fulfill a Purpose!

**?? – Based on that—What Sort of "Power" are we Talking About? ...and How Do We Engage That Power?**

...Matt 28:18-19 and Acts 1:8 are reassignments of Gen. 1:28 ...Only Now, the earth is filled with corruption, futility, sin, resistance, and an opposing Spiritual Army!

"This is how the creation mandate of filling and subduing creation is meant to be carried out. When you look closely at the creation story, you'll see the world itself is wilderness; the only order that's been brought forth so far is the garden where God has placed Adam and Eve. Their task was to begin this culture-making work and to eventually turn the whole earth into a garden — a cultivated dwelling place shared by God and humanity. Imagine what could have been. Imagine a world where the bond between God and humanity was unbroken. Where all of this culture-making work was properly ordered, not in any way stained by pride, idolatry, insecurity, or shame. Imagine a world marked by a free exchange of creativity and ideas, unhindered by competition or by a lustful desire for wealth and power. Imagine and weep at how tragic the consequences of the fall were for the world that could have been." **Mike Cosper**, "Redemptive Participation", p. 13

"In the aftermath of the curse, the creation that was already wild is now also hostile. It will resist our efforts to tame and subdue it. It will challenge our capacity to carry out our mandate. Creation's own orientation is altered from being the humble servant of humanity, amiable to its rule, to being hostile. "Thorns and thistles" are both literal hindrances to our work and also metaphorical hindrances for the way all work is cursed. Likewise, our own orientation turned away from God. If we pay close attention here, we see the way idolatry actually works. We were meant to be these "priests of creation," filling, subduing, and ruling the earth in such a way to honor and glorify the God who made us. In our fallenness, the orientation towards God is broken, but the functional nature of humanity is unchanged. We still gather up praise. We still work and act in such a way as to bring glory to something." **Mike Cosper**, "Redemptive Participation", p. 15

**?? - What Kind of "Power" might this take?**

...If my understanding of the Christian Life (calling) is to "Attend a Decent Church, clean up some morals, raise a decent family, pray/read my Bible, accurately explain salvation (by grace through faith), and support conservative causes ...then perhaps that can "make-do" with CASUAL, INCONSISTENT POWER! ...and maybe, I can feel OK about my life, as long as a Bible is close by! As long as my ideas and philosophy of life sounds similar to the Bible! ...But That's WAY TOO SMALL of a Life-Vision!

?? - What if my "Life-Assignment" is...

Ex 35:30-33 Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; <sup>31</sup> and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, <sup>32</sup> to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, <sup>33</sup> in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft.

Numb 11:16-17 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. <sup>17</sup> And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Matt 10:5-8 "These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> 'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons...'"

Lk 10:17-19 <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."

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."

### **...The Warfare "OUT-THERE" Needs POWER**

1 Jn 3:8-9 "...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God."

### **... The Warfare "IN-HERE" Needs POWER!**

**...Thus, "Pentecost" CANNOT/MUST NOT become merely a "Historic Theological Landmark"!!! ...It is NOT like Visiting the Beaches of Normandy! ...It Needs to be RIGHT-NOW!!**