

What does it mean to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in the 21st Century?

- A. Prayer
 - a. Gives **courage, creativity, comfort**
- B. Power Word Study (power, empowered)
 - a. *Exousia* (Greek for power) means privilege, capacity, delegated right, legal authority (as found in Acts 1:7—God’s authority)
 - b. *Dunamis* (Greek for power) means force, might, ability, miraculous power. Root of English words “dynamite” and “dynamic” (as found in both Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8—the power received by humanity as a gift from God)
- C. Even after the resurrection, the church was looking for a physical kingdom to allow them to take over the physical world. They were looking for *exousia*—political clout and earthly authority. Instead, Jesus shared that they would receive the power of the invisible kingdom—*dunamis*—spiritual power and authority.
 - a. Their *exousia* would not be the earthly throne of Jerusalem; but it would be *exousia* (authority) over the *dunamis* (power) of the devil.
 - b. The Holy Spirit would make them dynamic in the personality of the King by giving them/demonstrating the abilities of the King in their lives.
 - c. They would become dynamic in **Mouth, Mind and Mission:**

1. Dynamic Mouth (Courage)

- A. Five occasions in the book of Acts of people receiving this experience in the book of Acts demonstrating the spread of this experience:
 - a. Acts 2 (120 of the early church suddenly spoke in tongues)
 - b. Acts 8:17 (Samaritans and laying on of hands)
 - c. Acts 9:17-18 (see also 1 Corinthians 14:18)
 - d. Acts 10 (Gentiles at Cornelius’ House suddenly spoke in tongues)
 - e. Acts 19 (Disciples of John the Baptist spoke in tongues and prophesied)
- B. Why Tongues?
 - a. The most recurring sign of being filled with this dynamic is speaking in other tongues.
 - b. James 3:8—The tongue is difficult to control. “No human can tame the tongue.” Expressing what we are not able to express in our own language (surrendering control of the tongue to God).
 - c. Romans 8:26-27—The Spirit helps us pray, intercedes for us
 - d. The Holy Spirit prays through us
 - e. Satan cannot understand an unknown tongue (1 Corinthians 14:2)
 - f. Tongues conquer the devil in and of themselves.
 - g. It is the prominent initial sign that one has been filled with power
 - h. *Glossolalia*—Compound Greek word meaning tongue, language or talk
 - i. *Xenolalia*—Greek word meaning speaking in a known language that you have not learned
 - j. At first, they believed tongues were *xenolalia*, but over time, it became understood that *xenolalia* was not the norm—it was more of a devotional nature of tongues that could not be interpreted or understood.

- C. Historical Influences of Tongues
 - a. Irenaus and Tertullian mention tongues and interpretation
 - b. St. Patrick
 - c. Bernard of Clarivaux, Hildegard of Bingen
 - d. Thomas Aquinas
 - e. The Moravians
 - f. Early Quakers
- D. Charismatic Challenges Regarding Tongues
 - a. Lives that do not seem to measure up to their experiences
 - b. Over-emphasis on this evidence as THE only evidence of Spirit-baptism
 - c. Misunderstanding and lack of teaching
 - d. Lack of order in some ministries
- E. Charismatic Consequence of Tongues
 - a. Edifies the individual (1 Corinthians 14:4, Jude 1:20)
 - b. Releases intercession and worship
 - c. Increases intimacy
 - d. Strengthens control of tongue
 - e. Exercise faith
 - f. Agrees with scripture
 - g. Increases verbal boldness
- F. Paul said he spoke in tongues more than anyone, but he had rather speak words that the unbeliever could understand. God empowers us to speak in a known language—and this is the greatest reason.

2. Dynamic Mind (Creativity)

- A. Not only would God empower their speech, but he would empower their mind with the creativity of heaven. (See Acts 2:17-18)
- B. People are going to prophesy—their speech would be empowered, but they would also dream dreams and see visions. God’s very wisdom would be accessed, and be the most creative people in the world.
- C. Your personal dynamic mind is The Creator who is in you.
 - a. Inspired—create songs, music, web sites, television work, local ministry outreaches—God wants to use your mind!
- D. Some of you desire the wisdom of Solomon—a greater than Solomon is here:
 - a. If God gives a dream, he will help you do it

3. Dynamic Mission (Comfort)

- A. The Ministry of the Early Church took on a supernatural dimension after the day of Pentecost. They were dynamic:
 - a. Acts 1—the promise of The Spirit and power
 - b. Acts 2—Pentecost
 - c. Acts 3—Healing of the man at the temple
 - d. Acts 4—Supernatural prayer meeting
 - e. Acts 5—Ananias and Sapphira

“The Power of Pentecost”

Dr. William (Billy) Wilson

President Elect, Oral Roberts University; Executive Director, Empowered21

Scripture Reference: Luke 24:49; Acts 1:6-8 (KJV)

- f. Acts 6—Priests converted, Stephen works miracles
 - g. Acts 7—Stephen sees Jesus
 - h. Acts 8—Phillip ministers healing in Samaria
 - i. Acts 9—Saul converted
 - j. Acts 10—Gentiles receive Holy Spirit
 - k. Acts 11—Agabus prophesies of drought
 - l. Acts 12—Peter sprung from jail by an Angel
 - m. Acts 13—Paul and Barnabas chosen and sent
 - n. Acts 14—Cripple healed at Lystra
 - o. Acts 15—Supernatural wisdom to James and Jerusalem council
 - p. Acts 16—Macedonian vision, demons cast out of little girl
 - q. Acts 17—Spirit prompts Paul to preach in Athens
 - r. Acts 18—Paul has vision at Corinth, ends up at Bema seat
 - s. Acts 19—Ephesus experiences revival with healings, exorcism, cleansing
 - t. Acts 20—Eutychus raised from the dead
 - u. Acts 21—Agabus prophesies of Paul’s arrest
 - v. Acts 22—Paul protected from mob
 - w. Acts 23—Paul supernaturally from enemies’ plot against him
 - x. Acts 24—Felix brought under conviction until he trembled
 - y. Acts 25—Paul testifies to the gospel
 - z. Acts 26—Paul persuades Agrippa
 - aa. Acts 27—The Angel of the Lord visits Paul in the storm
 - bb. Acts 28—Paul is unharmed by snake bite and heals the chief leader of Malta
- B. In the world we are living in we must recapture the supernatural dynamic of our mission (Mark 16:20)
- C. Christianity is not a “do-it-yourself” Religion
- a. John 15:5
 - b. 2 Corinthians 3:5
 - c. The Holy Spirit is a comforter, intercessor, counselor, advocate, helper, consultant, spiritual trainer
 - i. John 14:16-18
 - ii. Psalm 121:1-2
 - iii. Hebrews 4:16
 - iv. Hebrews 13:5-6
 - d. Dynamic Ministry comes when God is helping you

Conclusion

1. The Power of Pentecost yields a Holy Spirit-empowered:
 - a. Dynamic Mouth which gives you courage
 - b. Dynamic Mind which gives you creativity
 - c. Dynamic Mission which gives comfort to you and to those you minister to