

ESSENTIAL GENES : 4 : THE POWER GENE

I wonder how many of you have tried putting mentos in coke this week?

Do you ever feel you are lacking in power?

The Spirit of God can ignite our lives and bring power to the way we live.

Do any of these or their opposite apply?

Timid – the Spirit can give courage

Mean or stingy? He can make us generous

Impatient? He can make us patient

Angry? He can bring calm

Selfish? He can enable us to want to help others, and to do it.

He can give power to have an impact on the world.

The early church said regarding the Trinity: God eternal exists as 3 Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, and there is one God.

How well do you understand this?

So the Holy Spirit is one of the Persons of God.

Ephesians 5.18 says, we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

How? How can I know if I am filled?

In Acts 1 the story begins. Jesus is going to leave the disciples and go back to his Father. He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem

John 16.5-7 – Jesus promised to send the Counsellor – he could be with each of them at the same time, whereas Jesus as a man could not.

They went back to Jerusalem and waited as they had been told, not knowing exactly what would happen. Acts 1.4-5. In 1.6-7 they wanted to know about Jesus' kingdom, but that wasn't what they needed to know.

What did they need?

1.8 What was their task?

Jesus gave them an impossible mission. Peter the denier, Thomas the doubter, James and John who wanted the highest place on Jesus' right and left hand, Their mission was the whole world.

I wonder how hard it was for them to wait. Waiting is often the hardest thing to do. They had to wait until Pentecost.

What does Pentecost celebrate?

The Law ?– Moses went up the mountain to meet with God – he was a leader, but now each follower, ordinary men and women, received the Holy Spirit.

The Harvest? – These ordinary people were empowered to ;join in the harvest of people for God 2.5-11 People from everywhere had come – the crowd heard the disciples speaking in their various languages – and knew that these were unlearned Galileans. They are already witnessing to people from far afield.

2.12-13 How could this amazing thing be explained?

When the Spirit moves, this can be the reaction from those watching.

2.14-16 Peter explained that this was exactly what the Scriptures they knew so well had prophesied would happen.

2.41 3,000 people believed. This was the beginning of the great harvest, now the 120 believers had become 3,120, through ordinary people empowered by the Holy Spirit.

4.19-22. Peter, who once denied knowing Jesus, now can't be stopped from witnessing about him. Peter and John are bold.

4.32 The disciples, once concerned with themselves, now share everything. But it wasn't easy. There would be persecution – just as there had been for Jesus.

But within 3 decades churches were planted throughout the known world. John 14.12. They were doing these greater works that Jesus had told them about.

Now millions of people throughout the whole world have heard the gospel and believe, because the Spirit of God is still working in ordinary people.

He wants to continue this work in us, for we have the same mission.

Think of people you know who are doing the same things these 120 did.

How have you experienced the Spirit empowering you for this mission? Jesus said the harvest is great, Luke 10.2. What are we to do about it?

The Holy Spirit empowers us to bring the harvest in, Ordinary people doing the extraordinary. These 120 had to wait for the Spirit, but we can ask him to fill us now Ephesians 1.13-14

Do we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us? How can we hinder him?

In what different ways does the Spirit use us? We don't all preach,

Ephesians 5.18 is a command, written in the present continuous tense, which means we are told to be filled, and keep on being filled.

5.19-21 tells us how we can show that we are filled with the Spirit. As we do these things, he is freed to do his work, he uses our gifts and skills.

As we said at the beginning, he can turn anger into calm, timidity into courage, meanness into generosity, impatience to patience, selfishness to helping others.

Never think that the Spirit can't use you – he can.