

## **Waiting on the Spirit [Acts 1-2]**

By Bob Young

We too seldom consider the power and purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In Acts 1, the disciples were told to “wait on the Spirit”. Why? The current tendency is to launch immediately, do the work by our own might and power. We do not know nor honor Zechariah 4:6. Some churches need to “wait on the Spirit” because they tend to force the Spirit’s presence and power on a human timetable. Other churches need to be admonished to “wait on the Spirit” because they cannot see him or are not looking for him. Still other churches need to “wait on the Spirit” so God can provide sufficient power for his work in our lives and in the world.

Based on Acts 1-2, the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives does several important things.

**First, the Holy Spirit in our lives provides an appropriate sense of self.** In Acts 1, the Holy Spirit’s presence provides a sense of self-disqualification. In the presence of the Spirit, I am conscious of self, with all of my strengths and weaknesses, positives and negatives. The Holy Spirit enables me to see myself. The Holy Spirit reminds that human perfection is not required. The Holy Spirit empowers us beyond our individual abilities and strengths. The Holy Spirit puts us in our place—and that place is in the Kingdom of God, striving at the side of God for the things of the Kingdom, by his power. The Holy Spirit reminds that it is not about us—it is about God.

**Second, the Holy Spirit helps us see one another clearly.** In the presence of the Spirit in our lives, we can overcome distinctions. We can hear alike and respond as equals at the foot of the cross. Only the Holy Spirit can unite us. Only the Holy Spirit can empower us beyond ourselves corporately. The Holy Spirit empowers us beyond our combined abilities and strengths.

**Third, the Holy Spirit helps us see the world around us.** Perhaps a great evidence of the absence of the Spirit in our lives is our inability to see those in need of the gospel. The Holy Spirit calls us to hear afresh a salvation story that God intends for all those whom he will call.

The Holy Spirit in my life is the result of obedience. “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.”