

You need the power of the Holy Spirit

Some might say that the whole focus around the Holy Spirit and the baptism in the Holy Ghost is something charismatics focus on, but it is not an essential doctrine. **But I think it is very clear that it is an essential thing.**

- In fact it was so essential that Jesus told His disciples to wait with starting on the great commission until they had been endowed with this new power.

*“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. **But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.**”*

– Luke 24:49

*“**Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised,** as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

– Acts 1:4-5

- **If they needed it, then we need it even more.** After all they had been taught by Jesus Himself.

Theory is not enough

Even though the disciples had walked with Jesus for about 3 years **they needed the Holy Spirit to give them power to put in to practice the things they had been learning.**

- We need to realize that it is not just a better teaching on healing we need – we need **the Holy Spirit to give us revelation on healing.**

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

– John 5:39-40

- **If teaching itself was enough then the first disciples would have been more than ready** to begin the task, yet Jesus told them to wait.

A supernatural assignment

Jesus had told His disciples to do more than just talk about Jesus. He had told them to demonstrate the Kingdom of God.

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

– Mark 16:15-18

- It is good to talk about Jesus, but that is only a part of our job description. The "healing and casting out demon" is also part of every believer's job description.
 - If Jesus is our Lord we cannot "pick-and-choose" when it comes to what part of the job we like to do.
- We might be able to talk about Jesus in our own strength, but to heal the sick and cast out demons we are totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit.
 - ...and the "talking about Jesus" part, becomes a lot more fruitful if we do that also in the power of the Spirit.

A supernatural Gospel

In the Bible we see that healing and deliverance was a part of preaching the Gospel.

- Even when Jesus sent out his disciples on their "training mission", they were told to also heal the sick and cast out demons.

One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

– Luke 9:1-2

Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.'

– Luke 10:9

In The Book of Acts we also see **miracles as a natural companion to the preaching of the Gospel.**

THEY PRAYED FOR MIRACLES TO HAPPEN

*And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. **Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done** through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

– Acts 4:29-30

CROWDS LISTEN BECAUSE MIRACLES HAPPEND

*Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message **and see the miraculous signs he did.***

– Acts 8:6

PEOPLE CAME TO FAITH BECAUSE MIRACLES HAPPEND

*Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And he was healed instantly. Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, **and they turned to the Lord.***

– Acts 9:34-35

*The news spread through the whole town, **and many believed in the Lord.***

– Acts 9:42

GOD PROVED THEIR MESSAGE BY MIRACLES

*But the apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. And **the Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders.***

– Acts 14:3

*And the disciples went everywhere and preached, **and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.***

– Mark 16:20

The epistles

As we read the epistles in the New Testament we see that **Gospel was not to be preach only with words – it was to be demonstrated.**

*For when we brought you the Good News, it was **not only with words but also with power**, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true.*

– Thessalonians 1:5

*When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, **I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom** to tell you God's secret plan.*

– 1. Corinthians 2:1

*And **my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.** I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.*

– 1. Corinthians 2:4-5

The Gospel is not just a theology or philosophy. It is a powerful and lifechanging message

The different commissions

Some argue that healing, casting out demons and speaking in tongues is only mentioned in Marks account of the great commission. But the different accounts are not contradicting accounts – they rather compliment each other.

- **Mathew 28:18-20:** Focuses on what we are supposed to do
 - Go make disciples
- **Mark 16:15-18:** Focuses on how we should do it
 - Preach the Gospel, heal the sick and cast out demons.
- **Luke 24:47-48:** Focuses on what message we should preach
 - Forgiveness of sins for those who repent