

Title: It's Time to Send..., but NOT without the Holy Spirit

Text: Acts 1:8

Big Idea: You can't separate the salt from the pepper

Introduction:

What would a dinner table be without its salt and pepper? Practically, every American home has **SALT AND PEPPER** side by side in the kitchen, often as a **matched set**. However, we rarely wonder why. With so many other spices in the market, how did salt and pepper raise to such level of prominence?

According to Wikipedia, salt gained popularity as a condiment in **Ancient Rome**. In the **seventeenth-century French cuisine**, which considered **pepper the only spice (as distinct from herbs such as fines herbs) that did not overpower the true taste of food**. Since that time, they both have become common staples on European and American dinner tables.

*My mother-in-law, Judi, insists that when eating at the table you **MUST PASS SALT AND PEPPER** together. She tells us “never break up the marriage.” Even if a person always wants only one, whether salt or whether pepper, she insists they be passed around the table together as a set.*

But what would happen if we separated the salt from the pepper? What if we placed the salt on one side of the room and the pepper on the other? Some of us look at them both and say, “**Well, that is not right.**” “**They should be together.**” “**Let's pair them up.**” But if you grew up in an only salt world or an only pepper world, you would never notice that one was not beside the other. That is until you saw someone who had them together.

Before you feel like **the spirit of Julia Childs** has overtaken your pastor, let me tell you where I am going with this. Suppose we call “**SALT**” “**MISSIONS**” and we call

“PEPPER” “THE HOLY SPIRIT.” My proposition today is this: “SALT belongs with the PEPPER” or “the HOLY SPIRIT belongs with PERSONAL MINISTRY and MISSIONS.”

Some here would say, *“Yes, of course, the two go together.”*

Others would say, *“Well, sure, but how?”*

Still others might say, *“Why those two?”*

This morning I want to BEGIN A CONVERSATION about the Holy Spirit’s role in missions or the Holy Spirit’s role in personal ministry. This idea of the Spirit and missions is NOT a denominational topic, a spurious issue or a pet topic to ride on. I BELIEVE IT IS FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT STORY. I realize that one sermon will not answer all the questions that float out there about the work of the Spirit. I trust that God will provide other settings for us to dialogue about this critical topic further. For now, I want us begin a dialogue together.

Chances are that many people here have had a negative experience or two when this issue has surfaced. I know I have several painful ones in my family. In fact, some of the most selfish acts I have seen in church have come under the guise of the Holy Spirit. Experiences, whether negative or positive, is not the final arbitrator of truth. Scripture is.

That being said, I still believe we MUST converse about it. Like all issues it is a Biblical one and must be resolved through the Scriptures. All rule and conduct must come from the Scriptures. It is to the word of God we look for our paradigm on how to act and behave. Do we read believe God’s word can happen for us today like it did for them? It is from this background I believe we can fully understand the dynamic of the Early Church.

The theme for this missions month is “IT’S TIME...” In our first week, we are talking about, “IT’S TIME TO SEND, BUT NOT WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

What is the goal this morning?

“To show through the Scriptures that the Empowerment of the Spirit is necessary for personal ministry and missions.”

“Don’t separate the Salt from the Pepper.”

Preview:

1. What purpose of the “pepper” serve to the salt? Why do we need empowerment?
2. Why do some separate the “salt” from the “pepper”? What is the Spirit’s job description in the Bible?
3. Where do we get the pepper? How do we receive the Spirit’s empowerment?

Why do some SEPARATE the salt from the pepper?

1. **MISUNDERSTANDING** - of the “pepper”? or What is the job description of the Holy Spirit?

Example - The Twelve Disciples:

Easter Sunday evening - Salvation:

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

John 20:22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “**RECEIVE the Holy Spirit.**”

Upper Room at Pentecost - Empowerment:

Acts 2:1 ¶ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Acts 2:4 All of them were **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Healing of a crippled man - Empowerment:

Acts 4:31 ¶ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. **And they were all FILLED with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

Essentially, the Holy Spirit performs **TWO** distinct functions in the Scriptures. He either “**SAVES**” or He “**EMPOWERS.**” Look at any verse in either Old and New Testament and ask yourself, “**Is the Holy Spirit SAVING someone here?**” or “**Is the Holy Spirit EMPOWERING someone for a God given work?**”

Go throughout the Scriptures, either Old or New Testament, and wherever you see the Spirit work, He is doing either one of these task. Regarding **SAVING**, we can put the three main branches of salvation: **JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION** and **GLORIFICATION**. For my Calvinist friends in the audience, we can add **ELECTION, PREDESTINATION** and **FOREKNOWLEDGE**. However, there is “**A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT**” work of the Spirit for empowerment. This is **NOT SALVATION**, but a person encounter with God’s spirit **TO EQUIP AND IGNITE THEM TO FULFILL THEIR PART IN GOD’S GREAT COMMISSION.**

The construction of the tabernacle, Balaam, Moses, Joshua, Judges (Othneil, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson), Monarchy (Saul, David), Prophets (Samuel, Elisha asks for a double-portion of the spirit from Elijah), Azariah, Jehosaphat, Ezekiel and Isaiah.

And we must ask ourselves this question, “Are these folks getting saved?” “Are they walking down the altar at a Billy Graham crusade and saying ‘I need Yahweh?’” “Is God doing His regenerating work and sanctifying them or is God equipping them for a special work?”

Deductions from the Spirit:

- a. **Salvation only?** Cannot say they were getting saved each time.
- b. **Salvation and Empowerment:** Last two definitely connected to personal ministry and mission
- c. **Separate and Distinct Beyond Salvation:** Empowerment does **NOT** automatically occur at salvation. Though you and I get ALL the Spirit when we get saved, He is either not unleashed or released automatically.
- d. **Multiple fillings:** Empowerment is reoccurring.

2. FANATICISM

Most of us have a weird God story or two that of some person or event where we say, “*No way, I am NOT going there.*” Because of this, I have found in some people there is a tendency to limit God’s intervention in any like manner or in our case separate “the pepper from the salt” or “the Holy Spirit from mission.” Some unfortunate consequences result from this.

Selfish Inclinations:

The Holy Spirit becomes of “a spiritual joy ride” and spirituality becomes selfish in nature. That is what we see in the Corinthian church. The most spiritual church in the New Testament is the most immature because they use the Holy Spirit and His gifts for selfish means rather than for mission and ministry. The pepper is

separated from the salt. Church becomes all in reach and no outreach. People argue over my rights to connect to God in any manner I choose in any setting I choose. I can't help what is happening to me. Anything but the things done in "deceit and orderly manner" as Paul instructs us in the corporate setting.

Badge of Spirituality:

I have seen it create a caste system of "THE HAVE'S" and "THE HAVE NOT'S". This comes out in subtle ways: language, demand for expression or test for leadership. Ironically, the people who receive the empowerment in the New Testament tend to be newer Christians. This shows it is no sign of maturity, but rather a divine concession of God's grace.

It's weird so I reject it:

The other side is the fact that if it looks, feels and sounds weird, I will never touch it. **The Bible is full of oddities.** *Noah building an ark. Abraham sacrificing Isaac. Moses speaking to a rock for water. Isaiah, the naked prophet (Isaiah 20). Elisha on the boy's body (). John the Baptist eating grasshoppers and honey.* Some in the church believe, naively so, that "if it is weird it must be God." "Just because something is weird does not make it God." Corollary: "Just because something is NOT weird does not make it God either." All things much be evaluated by Scripture.

What is normal? Normal dress. Normal food. Normal music. The reality is that for most of us "normal is a definition of what we are comfortable with." "Normal is often our own personal preferences." All things need to be evaluated by the Bible.

3. SPIRIT-INSPIRED SPEECH

According to Scripture, this empowerment motif is often associated with spirit inspired speech. The Bible has many forms of this: 1) Prophecy both foretelling and

forth-telling, 2) Praise and 3) Tongues. In a general manner, God fills our mouth with His vocabulary and even words. This makes sense. According to Genesis, God's resources for the work of creation are WORDS. All matter, life and time are created with words. In the same manner, when God awakens you to His new work, He puts in you His lexicon. This is not a trance, or even possession, but an enablement to do a divine work. Unfortunately, the emphasis on this sign of empowerment has confused the matter separating the salt from the pepper.

What **PURPOSE** does the “pepper” serve to the salt? Why do we need empowerment?

Mission or Personal Ministry:

Acts 1:1 ¶ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that **Jesus BEGAN TO DO AND TO TEACH**

Acts 1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Notice the **Jesus BEGAN to do and to teach**. He is **NOT finished yet**. After His Ascension, He **CONTINUES HIS WORKS AND WORDS, YET IN A DIFFERENT MANNER**. It is to **THAT** manner we bring our thoughts this morning. The focus shifts **FROM JESUS TO THE DISCIPLES AND THEN TO ORDINARY PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH**.

This is why I purposely interchange “**Mission**” with “**Personal Ministry**.” Too often, the focus of mission months become centered on those whom God calls overseas. The unfortunate by-product to this is the idea that my role is simple to observe, give and perhaps pray. The reality is that **God has a story FOR YOU**. A mission for you. A personal ministry **FOR YOU**. **Jesus BEGAN His work and is NOT FINISHED**. He wants to **FINISH THROUGH YOU**. But the excuses come...

Means to Mission or Personal Ministry:

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

Acts 1:5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days **YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**”

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The Twelve disciples had three years of training for this moment. They heard Jesus preach with authority. They witnessed Him confound the wise and elevate the simple with teaching that could only come from Heaven. They watched with amazement as He cured the leper, exorcised demons and even raised the dead. They witnessed for themselves His arrest, trial, death and resurrection.

Three years of personal training with the Son of God should have granted anyone a PhD in outreach and missions. **Yet, even with all this individual coaching, Jesus felt there was still something missing. Something ELSE was required that would ignite their education and experience in a manner that would transform this world. They needed the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus is continuing His work through ordinary people through the empowerment of the Spirit. From what we can deduce in Scriptures,

The Benefits of Empowerment:

The Empowerment of the Holy Spirit will cause the following traits to surface in the life of the believer:

- A greater desire and power to witness (Acts 1:8,2:41,4:31)
- A greater desire to share with those in need (Acts 4:32-35)
- A greater unity among the saints (Acts 4:32)
- A greater appreciation and desire to read scripture (Acts 2:42, John 16:13)
- A greater magnification of God in your life (Acts 2:1,10:44-46, Rom 5:5)
- A deeper love for others (Acts 4:31-37)
- A spiritual prayer language (Acts 2:4,19:6,1Cor 14:14-15)
- A direct communication channel with God (1Cor 14:2)
- A conduit for spiritual strengthening (1Cor 14:4)
- A greater receptivity to the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:12)
*Many Christians have found that the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1Cor 12 have followed the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- A greater awareness of the work, guidance, and presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5, 9:31, 10:19)
- A greater level of faith (Jude 1:20)

Where do we get the pepper? How do I get Empowered by the Spirit

What are the “keys” to receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Repentance and Water Baptism	(Acts 2:38-39)
Thirsting for the deeper things of the Spirit	(John 7:37-38)
Asking to receive	(Luke 11:13)
Yielding your life to God	(Rom 6:13)

Acts 2:38 ¶ Peter replied, “**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.**

Acts 2:39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

John 7:37 ¶ On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “**If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.**

John 7:38 **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”**

Luke 11:13 **If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”**

Rom. 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Conclusion:

Ministry in the New Testament was done **BY THE SPIRIT**. The Spirit of God falls upon ordinary believers and empowers them for a God ordained work.

Dwight Moody has one sermon.

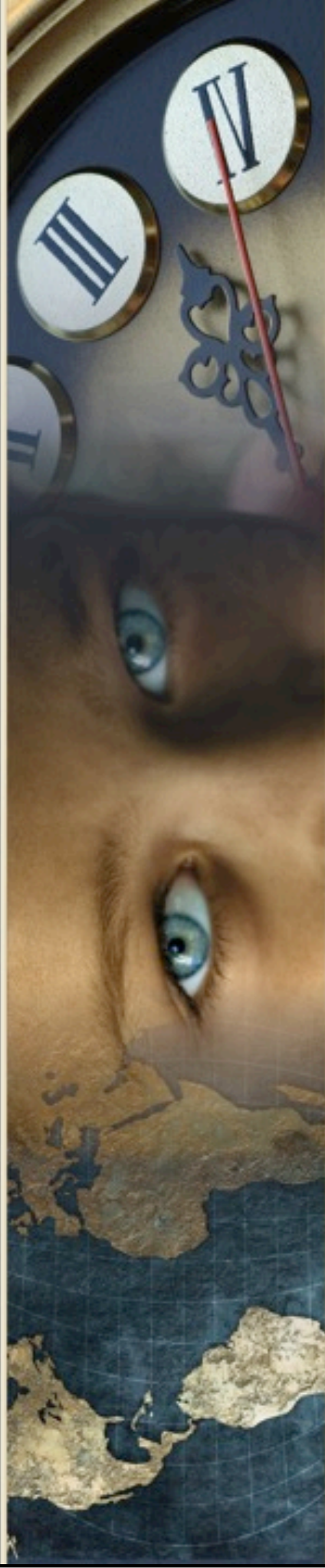
Bill Bright has his spiritual breathing.

MISSIONS MONTH
PLEDGE GOAL

\$85,000.00

Send. Dr. Gr.

IT'S TIME...

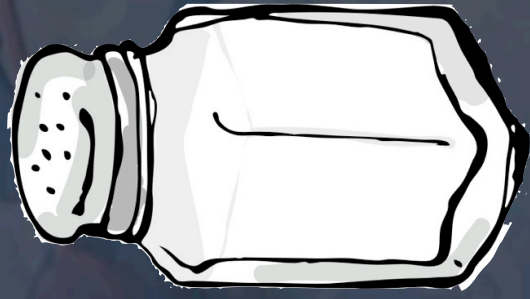


Send. Do. Go.

Missions Month at Valley Christian Center

IT'S TIME TO...

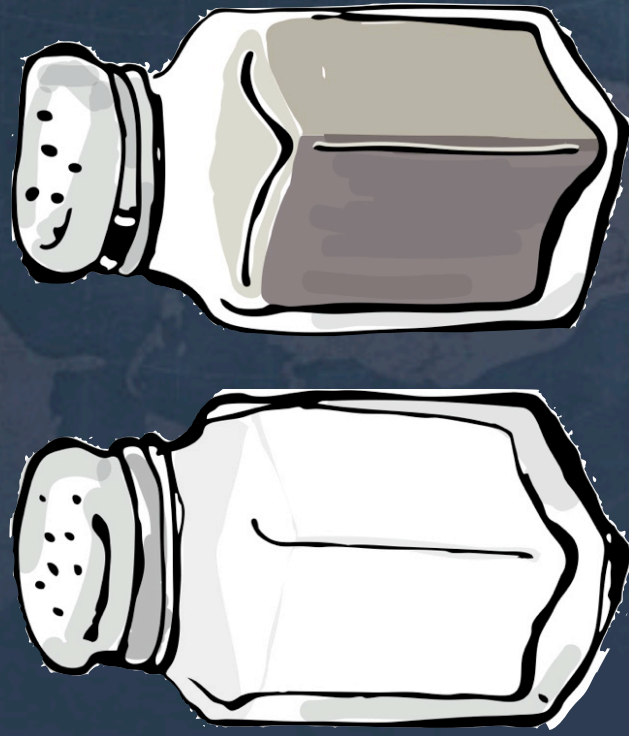
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BUT NOT WITHOUT
THE HOLY SPIRIT

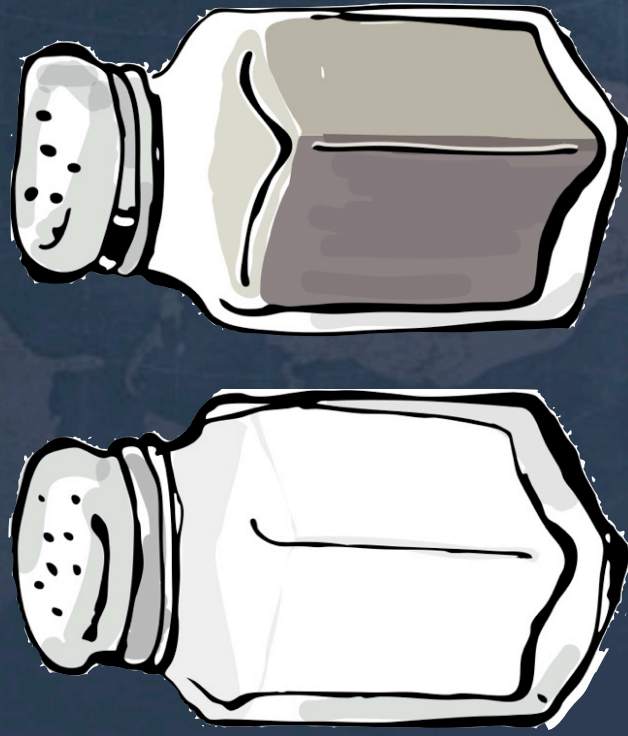
ACTS 1:1-8

What is the goal this morning?



TO SHOW THROUGH THE
SCRIPTURES THAT THE
EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT
IS NECESSARY TO FULFILL
PERSONAL MINISTRY
AND MISSIONS.

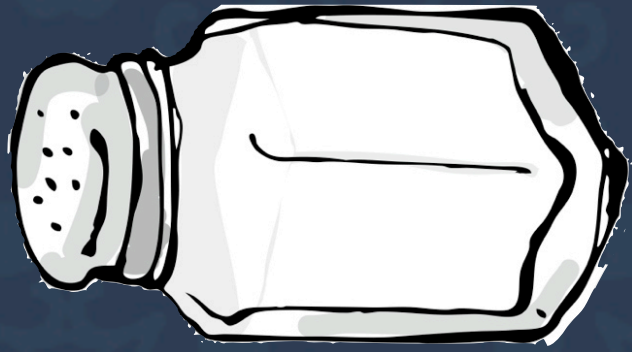
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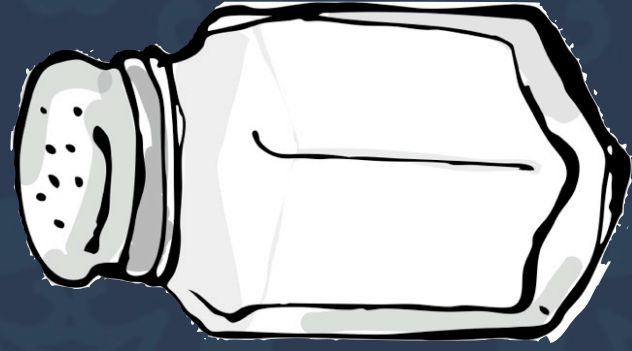
WHEN IT COMES TO PERSONAL
MINISTRY AND MISSIONS:

“DON’T SEPARATE THE SALT
FROM THE PEPPER.”

*Why do some separate
the salt from the pepper?*



*Why do some separate
the salt from the pepper?*



1. MISUNDERSTANDING



ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS THE DISCIPLES WERE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

1.

Easter Sunday evening:

And with that He breathed on them and said,

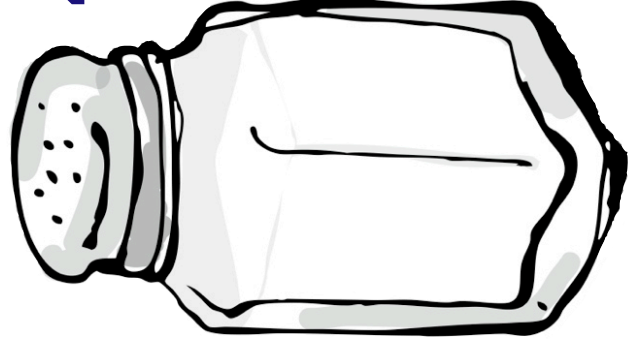
“Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)

salvation

2.

Upper Room at Pentecost:

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)

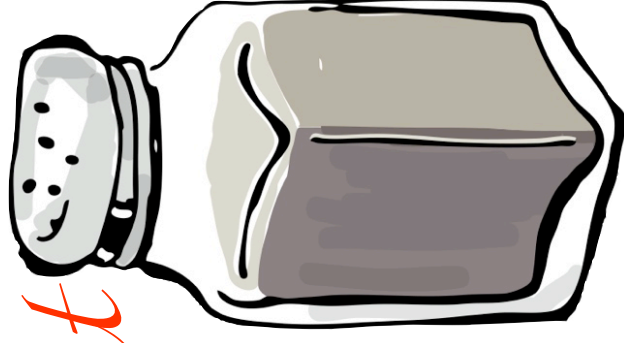


3.

Healing of a crippled man:

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. **And they were**

all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:31)



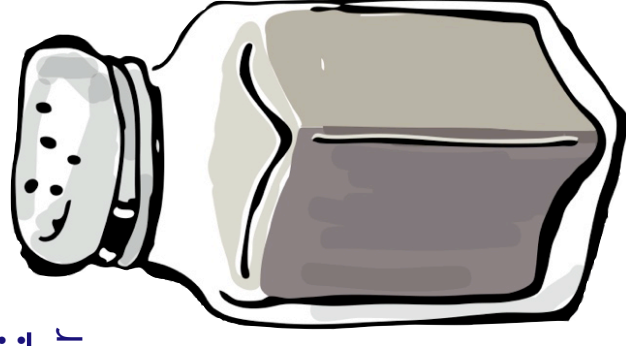
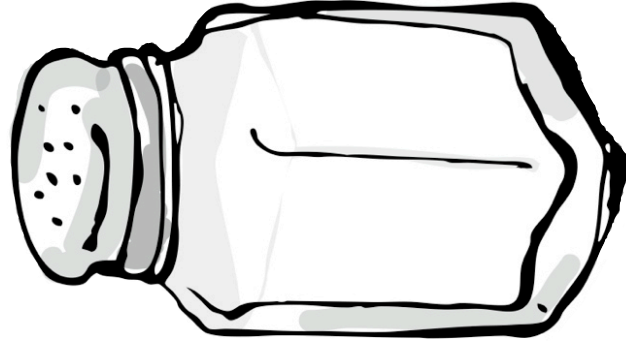
empowerment

DEDUCTIONS OF THE SPIRIT

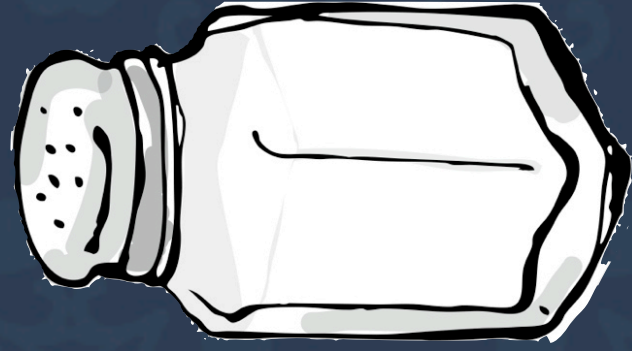
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Cannot say they are getting “saved” each time.
- 2.** Salvation and Empowerment:
Last two (Acts 2:4 and Acts 4:31) are definitely connected to personal ministry and mission.

3. Separate and Distinct event beyond Salvation:
Empowerment does NOT automatically occur at salvation.

4. Multiple fillings:
Empowerment is reoccurring.



*Why do some separate
the salt from the pepper?*



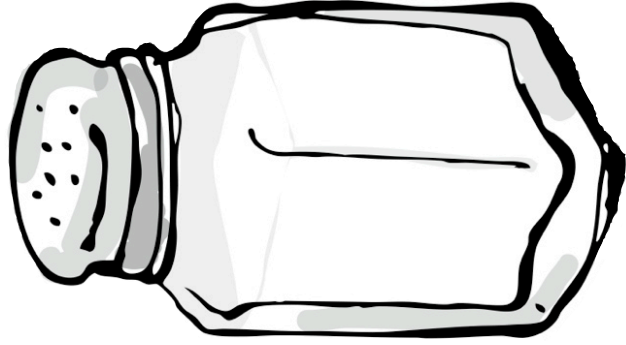
1. MISUNDERSTANDING

2. FANATICISM

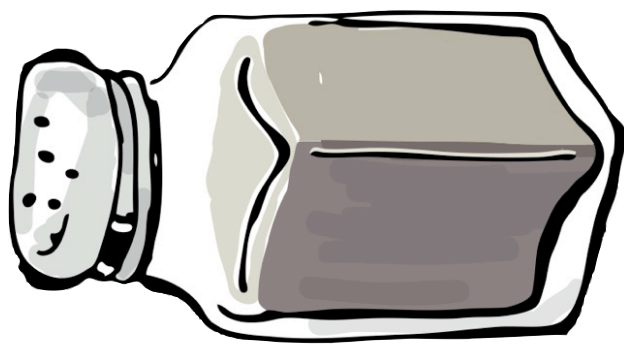


UNFORTUNATE BAGGAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT

- 1** • Selfish inclinations:
The Holy Spirit's empowerment is primarily for my own personal satisfaction.

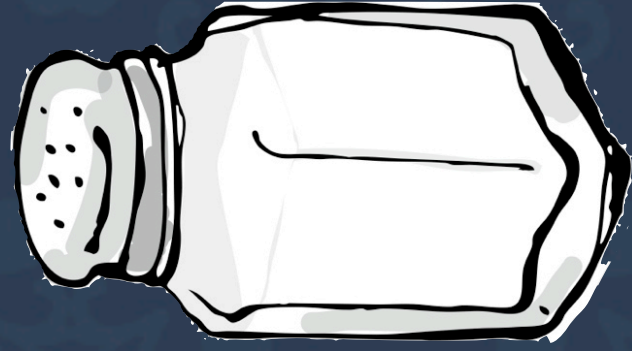


- 2** • Becomes a badge of spiritual superiority:
Creates a caste system of the "Have's" and the "Have Nots".



- 3** • It's weird so I reject it:
Debate over "normal".

*Why do some separate
the salt from the pepper?*



1. MISUNDERSTANDING

2. FANATICISM

3. SPIRIT-INSPIRED SPEECH



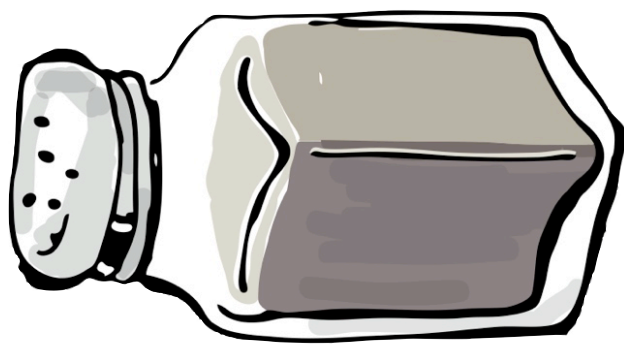
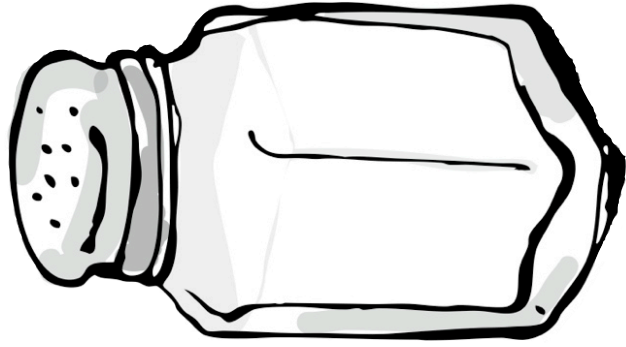
SPIRIT-INSPIRED SPEECH ASSOCIATED WITH EMPOWERMENT

- 1.** **Forthtelling:** Reiteration of the Covenant often in creative manners.

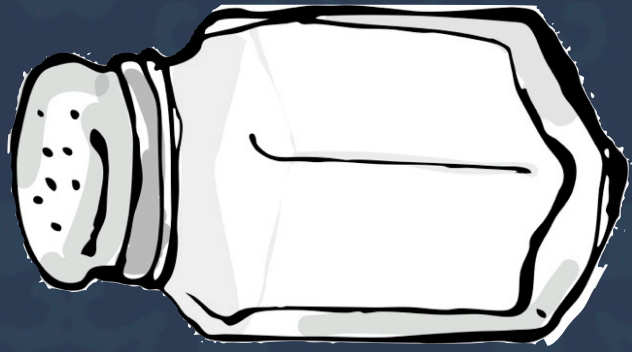
- 2.** **Foretelling:** Prediction of the a soon coming event, the coming of the Messiah or the End of Time.

- 3.** **Praise:** Song or inspiration and celebration to God for His work through us.

- 4.** **Tongues:** Heavenly or earthly language in both public and private forms.



*Why purpose does the
pepper serve to the salt?*



**WHY DO WE NEED
EMPOWERMENT?**



THE PURPOSE OF EMPOWERMENT

Mission or Personal Ministry:

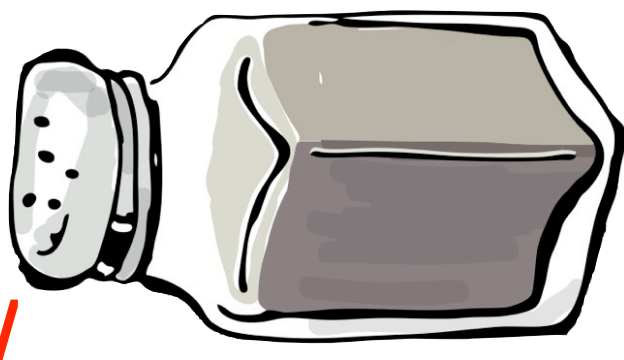
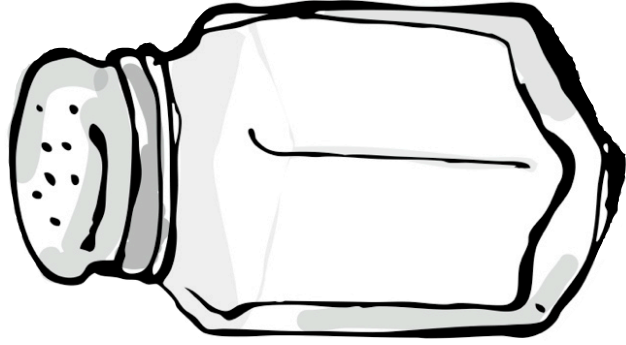
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Means of Mission or Personal Ministry:

⁴ On one occasion, while He was eating with them, **He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."** ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

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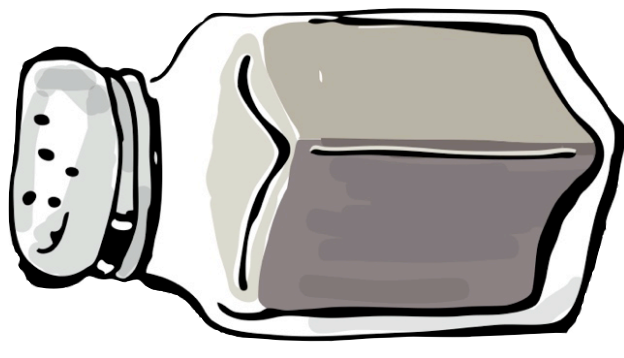
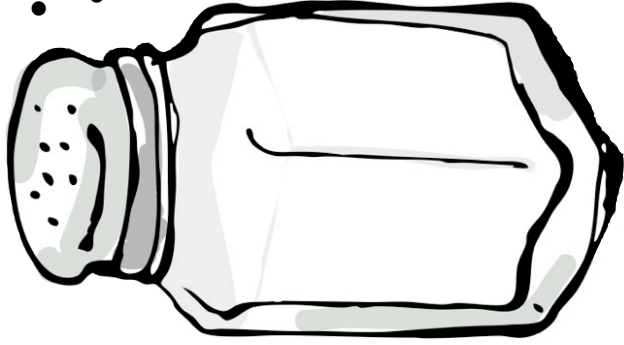
Acts 1:1-5, 8



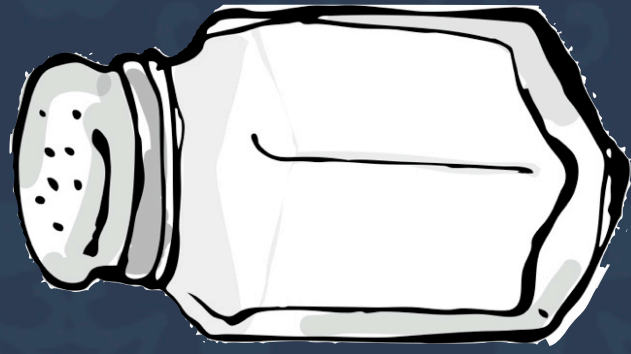
THE BENEFITS OF EMPOWERMENT

Spirit Empowerment will cause the following traits to surface in the life of the believer:

- A greater desire and confidence to witness (Acts 1:8, 2:41, 4:29-31)
- A greater desire to share with those who need (Acts 4:32-35)
- A greater unity amongst the saints (Acts 4:32)
- A greater appreciation and desire to read scripture (Acts 2:42, John 16:13)
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- A greater receptivity to the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:12). Many Christians have found that the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Cor 12 have followed the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- A greater awareness of the work, guidance, and presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5, 9:31, 10:19)
- A greater awareness of the spiritual realm (Eph 6)
- A greater sense of joy (1 Pet 1:8)
- A greater level of faith (Jude 1:20)



Where do we get the pepper?



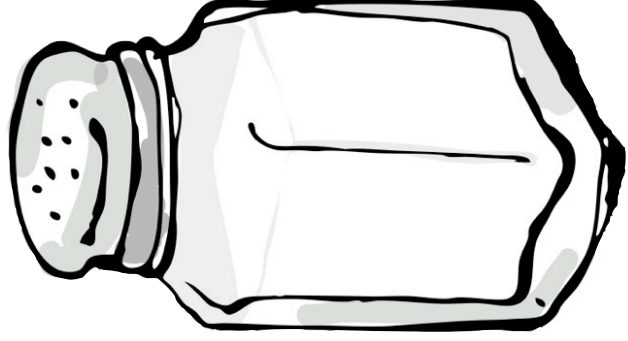
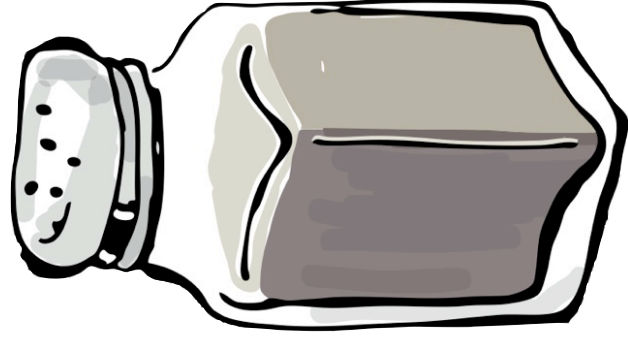
**HOW DO I GET
EMPOWERED
BY THE SPIRIT ?**



RECEIVING THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT

What are the “keys” to receiving the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

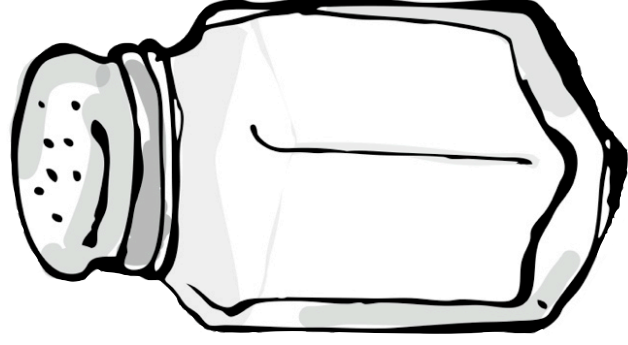
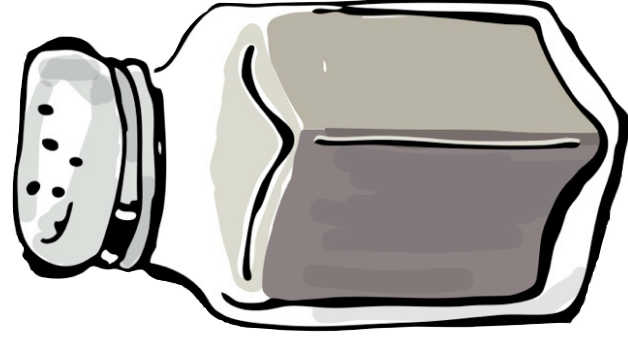
1. Repentance and Water Baptism
(Acts 2:38-39)
2. Thirsting for the deeper things of the Spirit
(John 7:37-38)
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(Romans 6:13)



RECEIVING THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”

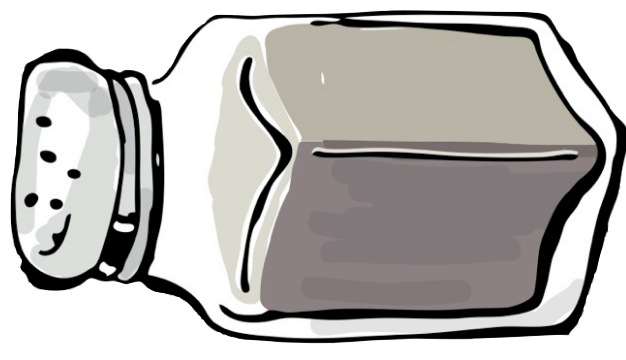
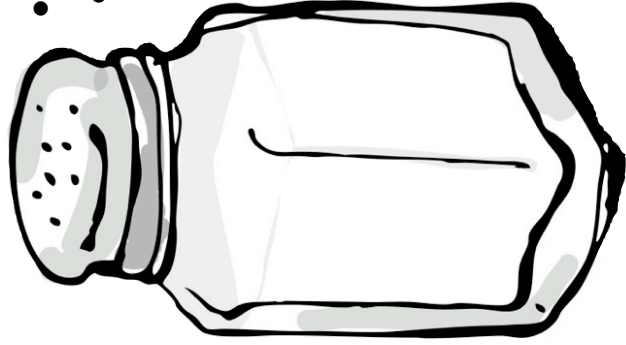
Luke 11:13



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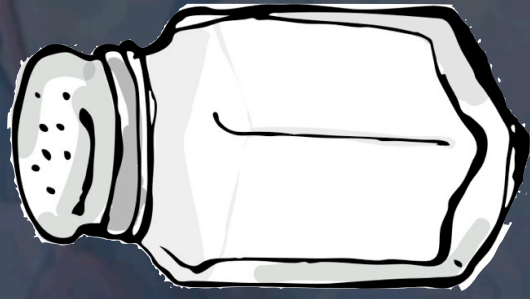
- A greater **desire and confidence to witness** (Acts 1:8,2:41,4:29-31)
- A greater **desire to share with those who need** (Acts 4:32-35)
- A greater **unity amongst the saints** (Acts 4:32)
- A greater **appreciation and desire to read scripture** (Acts 2:42, John 16:13)
- A greater **magnification of God in your life** (Acts 2:1,10:44-46, Rom 5:5)
- A deeper **love for others** (Acts 4:31-37)
- A **spiritual prayer language** (Acts 2:4,19:6,1Cor 14:14-15)
- A **direct communication channel with God** (1Cor 14:2)



- A **conduit for spiritual strengthening** (1Cor 14:4)
- A **greater receptivity to the gifts of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 5:12). Many Christians have found that the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1Cor 12 have followed the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- A greater **awareness of the work, guidance, and presence of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 6:5, 9:31, 10:19)
- A greater **awareness of the spiritual realm** (Eph 6)
- A greater **sense of joy** (1Pet 1:8)
- A greater **level of faith** (Jude 1:20)

IT'S TIME TO...

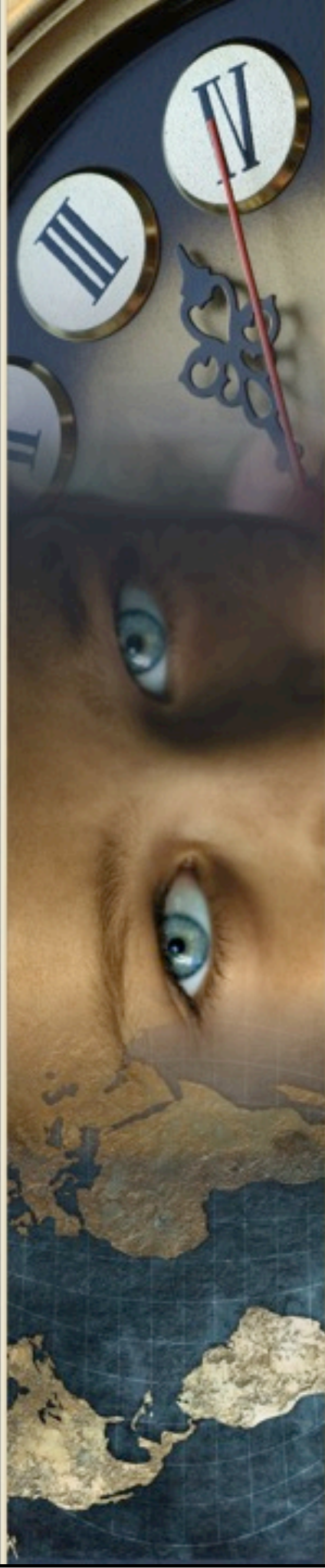
Serve



BUT NOT WITHOUT
THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-8

IT'S TIME...



Send. Da. Go.

Missions Month at Valley Christian Center