



# Bethel Sunrise Sermon Notes - *“Be Filled With Power”*

**Speaker:** Pastor Preston

**Date:** May 24, 2026

**Scriptures:** Acts 2, Acts 19, Luke 11, Psalm 66

## Main Idea

Many Christians live without the power that God promised them. While every believer receives the Holy Spirit for salvation, God desires for every believer to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and empowered to live a transformed, victorious Christian life.

Pastor Preston emphasized that Jesus' final instruction to His disciples was not to go—it was to wait.

"Wait until you receive power. Then go."

Trying to live the Christian life without the power of the Holy Spirit leads to frustration, weariness, and spiritual stagnation.

**Key Thought:** Christianity was never meant to be lived powerless.

## The Difference Between Indwelling and Baptism

Every believer has the Holy Spirit within them for salvation.

However, Scripture also teaches about being:

- **Baptized in the Holy Spirit**
- **Immersed in the Holy Spirit**
- **Empowered by the Holy Spirit**

Pastor Preston challenged the church to honestly ask:

- **Have I been immersed in the Holy Spirit?**
- **Am I experiencing God's power in my life?**
- **Is my life moving toward transformation?**

**Key Thought:** There is more to the Christian life than simply surviving spiritually.

## Preparing for a Visitation of the Holy Spirit

Looking at both Mount Sinai and Pentecost in Acts 2, God's people prepared themselves before encountering His presence.

**{ 4 Ways to Prepare for the Holy Spirit }**

### 1. Deal With Your Sin (Repentance)

When Peter preached on Pentecost, the people were convicted and asked:

"What shall we do?"

Peter's response was simple:

"Repent."

Hidden sin produces a powerless Christian life.

Psalm 66 teaches:

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

### **Repentance Requires:**

- **Honest confession**
- **Humility**
- **Bringing sin into the light**
- **A willingness to change**

God cannot transform what we refuse to surrender.

**Key Thought:** The sins we protect are often the very things keeping us from God's power.

## **2. Be Baptized**

Water baptism is more than a private belief.

It is:

- **A public declaration**
- **A commitment to Christ**
- **An act of obedience**
- **A statement before the church community**

Baptism says:

"I belong to Jesus."

**Key Thought:** Don't allow fear, pride, or hesitation to keep you from obedience.

## **3. Practice the Laying On of Hands**

The laying on of hands is a foundational biblical practice.

### **Acts 19**

When Paul laid hands on believers:

- **The Holy Spirit came upon them.**
- **They experienced God's power.**

This ministry is not reserved only for pastors.

Any Spirit-filled believer can:

- **Pray for others**
- **Encourage others**
- **Minister God's presence**

**Key Thought:** Don't just tell people you'll pray for them later—pray for them now.

## **4. Ask for the Holy Spirit**

Jesus taught:

### **Luke 11:9-13**

Ask. Seek. Knock.

God delights in giving the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Many believers have been hesitant because of:

- **Fear**
- **Misunderstanding**
- **Negative experiences**
- **Abuse they've witnessed**

But none of those things change the goodness of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Fruit of the Spirit Produces:**

- **Love**
- **Joy**
- **Peace**
- **Patience**
- **Kindness**
- **Goodness**
- **Faithfulness**
- **Gentleness**
- **Self-control**

**Key Thought:** Don't let fear keep you from receiving what God wants to give.

## **After Receiving: Don't Ignore the Holy Spirit**

Receiving the Holy Spirit is not the finish line.

Believers must continue responding to Him.

Scripture warns us not to:

- **Grieve the Spirit**
- **Ignore the Spirit**
- **Quench the Spirit**

When the Holy Spirit speaks:

- **Listen**
- **Obey**

- **Respond quickly**

**Key Thought:** The Holy Spirit's power is sustained through ongoing obedience.

## **Dunamis Power**

The power promised in Acts is not ordinary power.

The Greek word is **dunamis**:

- **Dynamite power**
- **Supernatural power**
- **Transforming power**

This power enables believers to:

- **Overcome sin**
- **Walk in holiness**
- **Experience breakthrough**
- **Fulfill their calling**
- **Live as effective witnesses**

**Key Thought:** You cannot fulfill God's mission for your life without God's power.

## **Final Challenge:**

Ask yourself:

- **Am I living with the power of the Holy Spirit?**
- **Is there sin I need to confess?**
- **Have I been baptized?**
- **Have I asked to receive the Holy Spirit?**
- **Have fear or past experiences kept me from seeking more of God?**

God is not withholding His Spirit.

The invitation remains: Ask. Seek. Knock.

The Father delights in filling His children with His Spirit.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. **What is the difference between having the Holy Spirit within you for salvation and being empowered by the Holy Spirit for ministry?**
2. **Is there any area of your life where unconfessed sin may be limiting your spiritual growth or effectiveness?**
3. **What fears or misconceptions do people often have about the Holy Spirit, and how can Scripture address those concerns?**
4. **Have you ever experienced a moment where God's power transformed your life or strengthened your faith? What happened?**
5. **What practical step can you take this week to become more intentional about seeking and responding to the Holy Spirit's work in your life?**