

## Charged Up – Pr Jim Sprengle, Pentecost Day – May 23, 2021

- I. **Acts 2:1-21** – Previously read
- II. **I read a recent article about the world moving toward electric power.**
  - a. For many years now, fossil fuels are slowly being replaced by different sources of energy – and no matter what we believe about climate change or the benefits of new energy sources, electric is gaining momentum.
  - b. The article was questioning our underlying utility structure – things like the current power grid and the power plants which supply all this new demand for electricity
    - i. They are already stressed during the summer as air conditioners constantly run – along with the wild-fires that force the electric companies to shut down power so the winds don't spark fires
    - ii. What happens when the majority of people drive an electric car that need a supply of electric energy too?
    - iii. We have a whole new frontier on our hands with electricity preferred over gas and oil
  - c. In terms of car companies, you might have seen the newest models of all-electric vehicles coming out – Ford trucks and SUV's, the Hummer and other General Motors cars.
    - i. By 2035, roughly 15 years from now, some states are requiring that all electric vehicles be the only new cars sold... gas and diesel supposedly will be things of the past (so they say...)
  - d. The problem with electric is we don't have a hundred years of experience and industry-wide standards like gas and diesel vehicles.
    - i. Whether you drive a Nissan Leaf, a Chevy Volt, or a Tesla, each of these cars has a charging port that could be found anywhere on the vehicle... front, back, either side...
    - ii. So how do you provide charging stations that operate like your typical gas station?
    - iii. In South Korea they are working on fast charging stations that resemble self-serve car washes – a power cord hangs from the ceiling and depending on the make and model, it swivels around and drops right to the place you need to plug in
  - e. It's a universal power station.
  - f. When it comes to the Holy Spirit, we never have to worry about charging stations or power grids...
- III. **The Holy Spirit is THE universal power station with unlimited power.**
  - a. Just envision the reading in Acts today... people from all over the place... all makes and models had come to Jerusalem. **[See map]**

- i. The Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Pentecost was a yearly observance that all Jews were required to attend at the temple in Jerusalem.
  - ii. You think it's tough for you to travel to see family on Thanksgiving and Christmas... try traveling from Rome to Jerusalem (1400 miles as the crow flies) in ancient times for Passover then Pentecost!
- b. People came with their own language, culture, and backgrounds for the purpose of thanking God and praising His mighty works
- c. Then, in a miracle – God fills the people... charges up the people with His presence and power.
- d. Not only does He break down the barriers of language, but also uses the individual characteristics of each believer to His advantage.
  - i. Remember, all these people came to faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized... only to go back home – however far away it was – in the Spirit and power!
- e. The disciples were waiting for power from on high to come to them, which Jesus said would happen before He ascended to heaven [Luke 24:49]
  - i. But it is safe to say that the majority of the people in Jerusalem that day never it saw it coming as they were given a gift by the universal power charger that day.

IV. **How are your batteries doing right now?**

- a. Empty... drained... tired?
- b. You might know this, but the wrong charger can really mess up a battery.
- c. We have all these options out there that we think will charge us up – and they end up sapping our physical, emotional and spiritual energy.
  - i. We buy into these lies that having a lot of money or nice things will really give us the power we need... but no matter how wealthy we get or how many things we acquire... our batteries are still drained
  - ii. Sometimes people think that relationships will charge up their tired batteries...and no matter who comes and goes it doesn't help.
  - iii. Others go out and spend time drinking or drugging, and spending time with people who don't have their best interest in mind
  - iv. I suppose you name the charging station, and it can leave you feeling drained and burned out – Just think about the long list people try...
    - 1. Lust and pornography
    - 2. Gossip and tearing down others
    - 3. Cheating, lying, and stealing
    - 4. Even subtle things like seeking recognition and accolades to feel better...
    - 5. Maybe even trying to look like or be like someone else so we feel better about who we are
- d. Do you see the challenges in all these ways of trying to get charged up?

- i. The sad truth is, even Christians constantly seek the power outside of God to fill them up – and it’s a hopeless endeavor.

V. **However, God had a plan to get us an endless source of power...**

- a. It wasn’t the kind of plan we could have thought up or imagined.
- b. It began with a promise to Adam and Eve that a Savior would come into the world... born a human being yet with the fullness of God in Him (Col 2:9)
- c. This Savior went through every step needed to set up the world for redemption – He was born, lived, died, rose again and ascended to heaven
  - i. Especially on the cross, the sin of the world was placed on Him, and every last bit of energy and power was drained from His body.
  - ii. And it wasn’t just the sin of the world in a general sense... He literally paid for each of our sins and brokenness personally.
    - 1. He took upon Himself all the times we seek to find our source of power elsewhere – all the sin that leads us astray was placed on Him
  - iii. Through it all, He stayed on course so that we could be connected to the only source of power that never corrupts and never ends... the Holy Spirit.

VI. **The Holy Spirit is one who delivers the gift of knowing Jesus!**

- a. You see, the true power of God comes to us in Grace, the forgiveness of our sins won on the cross by Jesus... and that is all given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. The Holy Spirit comes to us and allows us to see Jesus... to trust Jesus... and to have our batteries charged in a spiritual way.
- c. That is real power – and it will never fade away or lose its strength – because it’s from God... it is God
- d. As we have a tendency to look for our own power sources, don’t forget the power of the Word, the blessings of your Baptism, and the strength found in the Lord’s Supper.
  - i. Not only that, you all have Christians surrounding you with the same gifts – and the Holy Spirit – who can help to charge your batteries as the fellowship of believers.
- e. Look no further than the universal power station to be charged up – it is God Himself by the power of the Holy Spirit – who fills you up with His endless source of forgiveness, life, and salvation – Amen!

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