



## ORIGINS (Part 2) - “The Power to Do What?”

### Genesis 11:1-9 NIV

1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar I and settled there.

3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

### Acts 2:1-12 NIV

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

### Acts 1:8 NIV

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.”

### Key Points

- The resurrection introduces us to a new way that isn’t defiance, but subversive.
- We are given the power to transcend borders and boundaries to create a different kind of experience in this world on the way to becoming a different kind of world.
- The power of the Spirit is the force of God’s love filling our lives, and our filled lives are offered to fill everything in every way.
- To bear witness is something that comes out of us.
- Our witness is not just our personal experience; rather, we belong to a cloud of witnesses who testify to all that God is doing and has been doing.
- We have the power to live in revolutionary intimacy with God and one another, and we have the power to bear witness to that reality.

## **READ**

Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- **Read Genesis 11:1-9. What do you think motivated the people to build the Tower of Babel? Discuss the significance of the people's desire to make a name for themselves. How does it relate to human nature? What lessons can we learn from God's response to the construction of the Tower of Babel?**
- **Read Acts 2:1-12. How do you interpret the significance of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples in the form of tongues of fire and enabling them to speak in different languages?**
- **Read Acts 1:8. How does the Day of Pentecost fulfill Jesus's promise to his disciples in Acts 1:8 about receiving power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them?**

## **REFLECT**

- **Discuss the idea of bearing witness to God's truth in our lives. How do you interpret this concept, and what does it mean to you personally?**
- **How does the idea of belonging to a cloud of witnesses impact your understanding of faith and community?**

## **RESPOND**

- **Why do you think we often overlook the implications of the newness Jesus offers and His way of life?**
- **In what ways can you transcend borders and boundaries to create a different kind of world centered on the power of God's love?**
- **How does your life bear on the world around you? Can you reimagine how God's Spirit and a new unity might shape your answer?**

## **PRAY**

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.