

PART 2

CONNECT NOTES

FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions

You will be asked questions on the topic. You open the question to the group as you reach each question

TOPIC : THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD PART 2

Sermon audio: outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/309

READER 1

The mighty hand God was revealed in the Old Testament as the hand of God that compels the enemies of God to submit - this was demonstrated through Moses asking Pharaoh to release the Israelites. Exodus 3:19 (NIV) "But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him".

God displayed His mighty hand through the amazing signs and wonders. He brought about plagues, judgement, He opened the Red Sea, and He destroyed Pharaoh's army.

Then much later on, God fully revealed His mighty hand through the life of Jesus. Jesus was the flesh and blood revelation of God's mighty hand at work on Earth.

For us to walk under the mighty hand of God, it means we need to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus and Moses did. Striving to only do what the Heavenly Father instructed them to do through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Question 1: How do you know if you are walking in the power of the Holy Spirit? How do you know God's Mighty Hand is with you?



5 SIGNS OF THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD UPON SOMEONE'S LIFE:

 A transformed tongue - A transformed tongue could mean the ability to speak in other languages or in heavenly tongues, like the apostles when they received the Holy Spirit. It also means to be able to control your tongue, to not allow foul or evil things to come from your mouth.

We should remember Matthew 12:34 that tells us, 'from the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks' This should tell us that if our heart is full of the Holy Spirit, our tongues should only be speaking words that are good.

Acts 2:4(NIV)

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. The Holy Spirit empowers us with the ability to speak in other tongues and the heavenly tongue. Paul wrote in Corinthians that everyone should speak in tongues, and the value of it.

1 Corinthians 14:4 (NIV)

Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

This heavenly language is available to everyone who is filled with the Holy Spirit. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit we should be seeking after God and asking Him to empower us with this tongue.

Question 2: How do people receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

READER 3

2.<u>A heart of devotion</u> - In the days of the early church, Peter called the people to repent and be baptised to receive the Holy Spirit, the response of the people was a heart of devotion to God:

Acts 2: 38 (NIV)

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, 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 2:41-42 (NIV)

Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

A heart of genuine devotion to the Lord is a sign that His Mighty Hand has transformed your heart.



3. <u>Great boldness</u> - We are called to act in great boldness for the sake of the Gospel. After receiving many threats from the priests and sadducees Peter and John continued to proclaim the name of Jesus and prayed for an increase of boldness in doing so.

Acts 4:29 (NIV)

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

Question 3: What is great boldness to you? How can you push yourself in your life to be more bold?

Great boldness should be a clear indication of being filled with the Holy Spirit. When we act in great boldness for God it should be obvious to others that we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:13 (NIV)

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

READER 5

4. <u>The fear of the Lord</u> - When we know the Lord and have His Holy Spirit within us, we should be constantly awestruck by the enormity and supremacy of our God, which should break out into fear of the Lord.

Acts 2:43 (NIV)

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

The fear of the Lord is a combination of :

- Absolute Terror at the holiness and mightiness of who God is.
- Reverence for His holiness.

• Love and adoration for Him.

This is the condition of the heart that brings change and revival to the church and community. A heart like this is opposite to a hypocritical heart and should be what we desire for our hearts.

READER 6

5.<u>A shaking of the camp</u> - When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we should be spiritually shaken and changed, being filled with all the things we've discussed.

Acts 4:33 (NIV)

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filed with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word God boldly.

Acts 2 (NIV)

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. The book of Hebrews tells us that we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. So now when the Holy Spirit shakes us, everything that is not of God's Kingdom will be shaken and fall away.

Acts 16:26 (NIV)

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

God reminds us to not fear the kingdoms of this world for they are easily shaken.

Question 4: How then, do we position ourselves to live under God's mighty hand?

READER 7

<u>Our response</u> - Choose humility - "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (2 Chronicles 26:5) We cannot try to live lives under God's mighty hand while being resisted by Him. We should choose humility so that we may work with God and act under His mighty hand.

1 Peter 5:5-7 (NIV)

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourself to your elders . All of you, clothe yourself with humility toward one another, because ,

Walking with God starts with a full surrender to Him. That's why we get baptised, baptism is a picture of a full surrender. To be baptised in the spirit is to be fully surrendered to the authority and power of the Holy Spirit.

READER 8

<u>Choose to be full of the Spirit</u> - We read in Acts, when they chose people to care for the daily food distributions, that not everyone is equally full of the Spirit. So why would we not choose to make ourselves the most full? We should not settle for being a half Spirit filled Christian. So how then do we become full of the Spirit?

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery . Instead, be filled with Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father For Everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The way you live reflects your willingness to either submit to the Holy Spirit or resist him. Sinful living drains us of the fullness of the Spirit, whereas surrendering to the Spirit fills us.

We should be leading lifestyles of fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Our lifestyle should be one of worship and constant gratitude to God.

SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read and why?

ACTION STEP

What action step can you take in order for you to walk in the revelation of His Mighty Hand.

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