



**Our Next Guest – The Holy Spirit
Sermon Discussion Questions – June 5, 2022**

Scripture Passages:

Acts 1:8 (NIV84) 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.”

Joel 2:27–30 (NIV84) ²⁷Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. ²⁸“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

Acts 2:2–4 (NIV84) 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.

Acts 2:5–6 (NIV84) 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 them speaking in his own language. . .

Acts 2:7–11 (NIV84) ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own 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 ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

John 10:10 (NIV84) ¹⁰ . . . I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Acts 2:42–47 (NIV84) ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Warm Up

This week pastor Tom started his sermon by asking which religious holiday we should get rid of on the Church calendar. Hypothetically, what is your least favorite holiday? Which holiday would you get rid of and why?

Discussion

- 1) Pastor Tom started his sermon by talking about the importance of Pentecost. What do you remember from his message about why Pentecost is so crucial to the Christian faith? How does this event affect how Christians live today?
- 2) How is interacting with the Holy Spirit different since Pentecost?
- 3) Read Joel 2:27-30 and Acts 1:8.
What (or who) is promised in these verses? Pastor Tom summarized saying, "All who have repented of sin and trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation are promised God's Holy Spirit power." How have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life? How do you hope to see it manifested in your life or in those around you?
- 4) How would you define grace? How about holiness?
John Wesley defined grace as "The power of the Holy Spirit enabling us to believe and love and serve God." Do you agree with this definition and how does it encourage your view of the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit?
- 5) Read Acts 2:2-6.
Here we see for the first time that the Holy Spirit filled the believers. What are the signs of this miraculous day of Pentecost? (hint: it involves wind, fire, and languages)? Where else in Scripture is the wind of God, His Spirit, present during times of miracles?
- 6) What does the fire represent and tell us about the Holy Spirit? How does this fire of the Spirit encourage you in your walk with Him?
- 7) When talking about what happens if we do nothing with the Holy Spirit Pastor Tom said, "The danger of organized Christianity is that it can become powerless... Jesus did not come to found a new religion called Christianity."

If this is true, why did Jesus come? Hint: read John 10:10. How might this purpose of offering life to the full encourage us as we pursue God and participate in his church?

8) Read Acts 2:42-47.

Pastor Tom mentioned 4 marks of a Spirit filled church from these verses.

What are those 4 marks? What does it look like for each to be put into practice? How do you see these marks in ALIVE? How could you live into one or more of the marks more fully with the help of the Holy Spirit?

9) The fourth mark of a Spirit filled church is evangelism. Acts 1:8 promises the power of the Holy Spirit and calls us to be witness of Jesus.

How can you, with the Spirit's power, be a witness for Jesus to your community this week?

Next Steps:

John Wesley wrote

The Spirit...

enlightens our understanding,

rectifies our will and affections,

renews our nature,

unites us with Christ,

assures our adoption as God's children,

guides our actions,

purifies and sanctifies our souls and bodies,

for the purpose of "full and eternal enjoyment of God."

As you read through this John Wesley quote which of the actions of the Holy Spirit do you find most exciting to think about and why?

How can you rely on the Holy Spirit this week to help you build His church in pursuit of the 4 marks Pastor Tom mentioned?