

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Part 2: The Holy Spirit Comes



Opening

1. Describe a time where you became aware of the Holy Spirit's work in your life.

Going Deeper

Read Acts 2:1-21 together

1. What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage?
2. During his earthly ministry, Jesus tells his disciples that it is better that he leaves because then they will receive the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-10). For the Spirit to come, Jesus first needed to ascend to heaven in order to usher in the next phase of God's redemptive plan. List the reasons that it is better to have the Spirit than to have Jesus physically present with us? (see Acts 2:17-21 as quoted from Joel 2:28-32 for additional insight)
3. Luke mentions that the Holy Spirit came on the day of the Jewish celebration of Pentecost. What did Pastor Dave mention were the 2-parts commemorated at Pentecost?
 - a. NT Wright suggests that when the Spirit fills the first followers of Jesus, they become the first-fruits of the new humanity. That is to say, Spirit-filled believers represent what the future of humanity will become when Jesus returns (which is a radical claim!). How might this change the way we see evangelism?
4. The outpouring of the Spirit is accompanied by wind and fire. What was the reaction of those who witnessed this event? Recalling other Old Testament examples, what is the significance of the Spirit arriving with wind and fire?

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5. When we read a passage like Act 2, it often creates a desire have a dramatic experience of the Holy Spirit. How do we relate to *dramatic* moments of the Spirit's work to the *ordinary* work of the Spirit in our daily lives? What are examples of the important *ordinary* work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

6. What is the first thing that happens when early believers receive the Spirit? (v. 4)
 - a. Why does Luke go into so much detail regarding the locations these Jewish people were from (v. 9-11)?

 - b. What massive shift does this event represent in the story of the Bible? How does this shape the mission of our own church?

7. Billy Graham once described our church tradition (CRC) as a "sleeping giant." Do you think this is true? Why or why not?

8. In what areas does our church need to grow for us to become more faithful witnesses to the power displayed in the resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit?

Close in Prayer

BLESS Rhythms Summary: (modified)

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying groceries for someone, banging pots at 7pm to show your thanks, checking in with your neighbour). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

E-mail/Text/Video Call. This is the practice of reaching out to someone that comes to your mind while you are in prayer this week. *Who have you connected with this week?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*