



THIS IS US, PART 6 B4: SPIRIT-FILLED

February 24, 2019
Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"Don't you want
the Holy Spirit
to be so ALIVE
in us that people
around us ask,
'What does it mean?'"*
-Pastor Randy

MAIN:

"Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:14-21)

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

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 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?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." (Acts 2:1-18)

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace..." (Ephesians 2:14-15)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The church is Spirit-filled. The same Holy Spirit who anointed Jesus to begin his earthly ministry is given to us. The Spirit of God was given to Jesus for four reasons: to preach Good News and proclaim God's favor, to deliver (set people free from evil and strongholds), to heal (all manner of sickness and disease), to work justice (good news to the poor). At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers as they waited in an upper room. The Holy Spirit is experienced as wind; this is the same word that describes God's breath in Scripture. Wind cannot be tamed, or controlled. The other depiction is of God's Spirit is fire, which reveals, illuminates, and refines.

One of the signs of being filled with God's Spirit is being enabled by the Holy Spirit to speak in other tongues or languages. It is the reversal of Babel (Genesis 11). One of the hallmarks of the Spirit's moving is inclusiveness. God pours out his Spirit on all people. The Holy Spirit is not racist, nor sexist, nor ageist, nor elitist. The Spirit is given to men and women, to young and old, to rich and poor. We will not see reconciliation across partisan divides, racial groups, etc., apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone who was there asked "what does this mean?" and then "what should we do?" The response of people encountering the power of God's Spirit was to repent, be baptized, and then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. All of us have encountered Holy Spirit when we are born again, but after we've been brought into salvation, God wants us to experience more, to be continually filled.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?
3. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it has an impact on your life in anyway?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week?
What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit active in Acts 2?
2. How did the filling of the Holy Spirit change and transform the believers who met in the upper room? How were the disciples different after the Spirit's arrival?
3. Why do you think repentance is a central theme of Peter's message? (vv 38-40)
4. How did people respond to Peter's message at Pentecost? (v37)
5. Why do you think people responded the way they did to Peter's message?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Jerusalem would have been brimming with people who had to celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost was a harvest celebration for people to offer their first fruits to God, as well as a commemoration of God giving the law to the Israelites at Mt Sinai. Why do you think God sent His Holy Spirit during the celebration of Pentecost?
2. God's Spirit is described as wind. You can't control it, but you can cooperate with it.. Describe an experience where you either failed to control God, or experienced the fruitfulness of cooperating with His power.
3. When the Holy Spirit descended on these scared men, they became brave witnesses. What implications does this have for our situation?
4. How have you seen people changed by the filling of God's Spirit?

cont.,

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

5. When the Law was given to Moses, God wrote on tablets of stone. Because the people sinned, 3,000 were put to death in judgment that day. However, at Pentecost, 3,000 people were saved. Jeremiah says that God will write his law on our hearts instead of on tablets of stone. What do you think this means?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What has your experience of God's Holy Spirit been?
2. Randy said that your car doesn't get filled with gas by driving by the pump and hoping the attendant can shoot a little into your tank as you pass. What has been your posture when it comes to receiving God's Spirit?
3. Randy said that he kissed his wife once, but that he didn't just stop then. It's something he has continued to do. How could you cultivate a relationship with God's Spirit?
4. How would you respond if someone you know asked you "what does that mean?" or "what does this mean?" (v12)
5. Peter pleaded with his hearers to repent. Do you have areas of your life you need to give up and walk away from? How might you be inhospitable to God's Spirit?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How is the Holy Spirit leading or convicting you to respond?
2. There is an adventure that we've been called to that is so much bigger than we are. Will you say yes?