

Summary

This sermon explores the gift of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus in Acts 1-2. The disciples waited 10 days in Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension before experiencing Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came with the sound of rushing wind and tongues of fire. The pastor explains that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who provides God's presence and power in believers' lives through three primary ways: presence (intimacy with God), formation (transformation to be more like Christ), and mission (equipping for God's work). The miraculous speaking in different languages demonstrated God's heart for all nations to hear the gospel. Jesus said it was better for Him to leave so the Spirit could come and dwell within believers, making the Spirit inside us better than Jesus beside us.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and minds, ready to learn about the incredible gift of Your Holy Spirit. Just as the disciples waited expectantly in that upper room, help us to wait on You with faith and anticipation. Remove any barriers in our hearts that might prevent us from fully receiving what You want to teach us today. Holy Spirit, we invite You to move among us, to speak to us, and to fill us afresh. Help us to be united in spirit and purpose as we gather together. We ask that You would open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hearts to receive all that You have for us in this time together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the longest you've ever had to wait for something you were really excited about? How did you feel during that waiting period?

Key Verses

1. Acts 1:4-5
2. Acts 2:1-4
3. John 14:16
4. John 16:7
5. Ephesians 5:18

Questions

1. The disciples had to wait 10 days without knowing how long they would wait. How do you typically handle seasons of waiting in your life, especially when you don't know the timeline?
2. The sermon mentioned that 'faith is when you keep showing up, not knowing when God's going to

show up.' Can you share about a time when you had to keep showing up in faith?

3. What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit fell on each person in that room, not just the apostles or spiritual elite? How does this encourage you personally?
4. The pastor said we can either be 'full of the Spirit or full of ourselves.' What are some practical ways we can empty ourselves and be filled with God's Spirit daily?
5. Jesus said it was 'better' that He leave so the Spirit could come. How is 'the Spirit inside you better than Jesus beside you' in your daily life?
6. The Holy Spirit works in three primary ways: presence, formation, and mission. Which of these three do you feel you need to grow in most right now?
7. The miracle of different languages showed God's heart for all nations. How does the Holy Spirit equip us today to reach people who are different from us?
8. The sermon emphasized that the Holy Spirit is a gift to be received, not a wage to be earned. How does this truth change the way you approach your relationship with God?

Life Application

This week, commit to starting each day by asking God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Before you get out of bed, pray: 'God, empty me of myself and fill me with Your Spirit today.' Then throughout the day, pay attention to how the Spirit might be leading you to show God's love to others, speak truth in difficult situations, or step out in faith in ways that are bigger than yourself.

Key Takeaways

1. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who provides God's presence and power in believers' lives
2. Faith means keeping showing up even when we don't know when God will show up
3. The Holy Spirit works in our lives through presence (intimacy with God), formation (becoming more like Christ), and mission (equipping for God's work)
4. The Spirit inside us is better than Jesus beside us because God can be with all believers everywhere at once
5. The Holy Spirit is a gift to be received through trusting Jesus, repenting from sin, and receiving by faith

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for the incredible gift of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that this gift is available to each one of us, not because we've earned it, but because of Your grace and love. As we leave this place today, help us to live as people who are filled with Your Spirit. May we walk in Your presence, be transformed by Your power, and live on mission for Your kingdom. Holy Spirit, continue to work in our hearts this week. Help us to be sensitive to Your leading and bold in our obedience. Fill us afresh each day so that when people encounter us, they encounter You. We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.