

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	The Promise of the Holy Spirit
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SERIES	We Need the Holy Spirit
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DATE	3/27/2022
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KEY SCRIPTURE	Acts 1:4-5
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SYNOPSIS	The Lord promised a good gift in the Holy Spirit who empowers us for ministry.
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HIGHLIGHTS	Closing song: Holy Spirit
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We Need the Holy Spirit

☞ The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Last week: We need the Holy Spirit. God says it's not by might, nor by power, but by his Spirit that his work is accomplished. Our own talents, skills and efforts will always fall short. "If it's your gifts and abilities, then it all depends on you and it will all end with you." It's the Spirit of ☞ God that brings wisdom and understanding, power and knowledge. **It's the Spirit of God working in the people of God that builds the kingdom of God.**

☞ Acts 1:4-5

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait for the gift my Father promised**, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will **be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**"

☞ The Reality of the Promise:

Holy Spirit is a Gift from God

How many like to receive gifts? Multiple times in the Gospels and in Acts, Holy Spirit is referred to as a gift from God.

Have you ever received a gift you weren't all that thrilled about? What about a gift that was just fantastic; better than you had even imagined?

Luke 11:11-13

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

John 16:7

It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Last week we talked about how great it would be to have Jesus in-person with us. But, he, himself said it was for our good that he has gone away. And, that's because he was sending the Holy Spirit to us.

Sometimes, people get a little nervous when talking about the Holy Spirit. In the olden days, he was often called the Holy Ghost and perhaps that comes across as spooky to some. For others, you've heard about strange phenomena associated with the Holy Spirit and it makes you a little anxious. But, I want to assure you that if God is giving you a gift, it is going to be great.



☞ God is good...

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father

--A.W. Tozer... *God is kindhearted, gracious, good-natured and benevolent in intention. God is infinitely good. He is never partway anything. Why did Christ die for us? Because God is good. Why are we forgiven? Because God is good. Why does God answer prayer? Because God is good. Let's put away all doubts and trust him.*

☞ Results of the Promise:

The Holy Spirit reminds us of biblical truths.

John 14:26

the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

☞ Holy Spirit reveals and gives insight.

Luke 2:25-26

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Mark 13:11

Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

☞ Holy Spirit gives us power.

Acts 1:8

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."

Acts 2:4 (*Acts 1:8 was fulfilled here*)

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

A thief was caught and sent to prison. While there, he came face to face with the claims of the Gospel and was born again by the Spirit of God. His life completely changed, he served the rest of his sentence in an exemplary manner and was released several years later. As he was leaving, the chaplain handed him a letter written by another prisoner. It said, "I came to this place despising both preachers and the Bible. When you told me you were saved, I said to myself, 'There's another one taking the Gospel road just to get an early parole'; but I've been observing you for a couple of years, and your testimony has rung true. I kept track of you when you were in the yard exercising or working in the shop or eating your meals. You never made a slip.



Now I'm a Christian, too, because I watched you! The Savior who saved you has saved me!" Others had tried to convince him through argumentation of the claims of the Lord, but this man had exhibited a changed life before him -- that made the difference!

Acts 4:31 (*Disciples filled again*)

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

☞ **There is power to witness and speak boldly for Christ.**

--Vinson Synan... The Pentecostal movement (which embraces the Holy Spirit) has done more to evangelize the world in the last century than all other Christian denominations combined.

Acts 10:38

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and... he went around **doing good** and **healing** all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Acts 19:6 (*Ephesian disciples*)

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and **they spoke in tongues and prophesied**.

☞ **There is power to live a righteous life, as well as power to heal and prophesy.**

With the Holy Spirit comes various gifts to enhance ministry. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11... a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, special faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues and interpretation. There are a lot of benefits with the Holy Spirit.

So, God has a good gift for us in the Holy Spirit, and there's great benefits, including insight and power with the Holy Spirit, so, how do we receive all this?

☞ **Receiving the Promise:**

Receiving the Holy Spirit is both an event and an ongoing process. In Acts 2, the disciples had a profound experience of being filled with the Spirit. However, they continued to experience his filling again and again throughout the book of Acts. We should expect the same today: A significant event of being filled with the Spirit and a repeated, or continual infilling.

-- Dr. Merrill C. Tenney... Most homes are connected to a water main. This supplies the house with adequate water for normal life. But suppose a fire breaks out. Then firemen tap a nearby hydrant to secure a much greater flow of water to meet the emergency. To be "full" of the Spirit is like a house supplied continuously with adequate water. But to be "filled" on occasion, as the apostles were in Acts 4:31, is to be given extra energy and power for special service. For the special task of persisting in evangelism, even when the religious leadership violently opposed



them, the apostles needed a special filling of God's power. They had been "full of the Spirit" all along. Now they needed "extra filling" to meet the extra demands on them.

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, but how do we position ourselves to receive?

Believe

Galatians 3:2, 5

Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or **by believing** what you heard... 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you **believe what you heard?**

Repent

Acts 2:38-39

"**Repent** and **be baptized**, 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**. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 5:32

...the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who **obey him.**"

Request

Luke 11:9-13

Ask and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened... your Father in heaven give(s) the Holy Spirit to those who **ask him!**"

Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (again) and spoke the word of God boldly.

Expect

Acts 1:4 (cf. Luke 18 – pray and don't give up)

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait for the gift** my Father promised

--DL Moody... *God commands us to be filled with the Spirit, and if we are not filled, it is because we are living beneath our privileges.*

Encourage

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were **all together in one place.** 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 19:6 (*pray with each other for the Holy Spirit*)

When **Paul placed his hands on them**, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Table Talk: Let's encourage each other right now.

☞ **Discuss:** **Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? What was that experience like?**

☞ **Start Timer**

--Charles Finney... *The Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression like a wave of electricity going through and through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love ... like the very breath of God ... it seemed to fan me like immense wings.*

☞ **Praise and Practice Gratitude**

Ephesians 5:18-20

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled** with the Holy Spirit, **19 singing** psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and **making music to the Lord in your hearts.** **20** And **give thanks for everything** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT

--DL Moody... *If we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and self-seeking and pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God, and I believe many a man is praying to God to fill him when he is full already with something else.*

God promised the Holy Spirit would be a good gift to his people. There's truth, insight, and power when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. You can be baptized in the Holy Spirit and
☞ **keep on being filled with the Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit.**

Song: Holy Spirit