

Sermon Guide

Pentecost: The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit

This last Sunday Alex read from 2 Corinthians 3:7-18, teaching us about the completely radical life available to us through Jesus' death and resurrection. This life comes to us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's job is to reveal the love and glory of God to us - to reveal Christ.

As we behold Christ we grow to love and trust Him with increasing measure. Our thoughts, our will and our desires begin to line up with His, and heaven comes to earth.

Surrender is how we receive the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Surrender isn't always easy but it is simple. In every area that you surrender, you will experience life; and in every area that you don't surrender you will experience death.

What God wants to do through His Church, cannot be accomplished without the ministry of the Holy Spirit. So may we learn to live as sacrifices, that God's kingdom might expand throughout the earth.

Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday, but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations and questions on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading. After each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

Discussion

- The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to live out our salvation, to be completely united with Love. How have you seen this play out in your life? Is there an area in your life that you have not let the Spirit minister to?
- Do you live like you are a spiritual trillionaire?
- Alex talked about how we cannot muscle our way to change. We instead need to lean into the promise of transformation that God gives us. What do you think about this? Is this a hard adjustment to make?
- We receive the Spirit to the degree that we give up our life. Where in your life do you need to surrender?

Activation #1

We will receive the ministry of the Spirit to the degree that we give up our lives. Take a moment to re-read Romans 12:1.

Imagine yourself as that living sacrifice, climbing onto the altar each day, bringing with you your possessions, family members, friends, blessings, preferences, dreams, and desires.

Now ask God to show you which things you hesitated to bring on the altar with you.

Put those areas before God, ask Him to help you in your surrender in those areas. Ask Him to increase your faith and trust in Him. Pray that in your choice to surrender that the fire of the Holy Spirit would meet you.

Our desire is that we would be a people that would live from that altar. So each morning, put yourself on that altar again. Commit yourself as a living sacrifice.

Activation #2

Alex talked about speaking in tongues as one of the main ways that the Spirit strengthens us. This week, lean into the practice of tongues.

Read Romans 8v26-27, Jude 1v20-21 and Corinthians 14v15.

For some of you, tongues is a very normal part of your walk with Jesus. Ask yourself, what would it look like for me to press further into this gift?

For others, tongues may be something completely foreign to you. Here are some practical ideas for you to explore praying in tongues:

Invite the Holy Spirit to rest on you.

Take a moment to ask God to show you a word in your minds eye in your tongue. After you feel like you've seen a word, try sounding it out loud. Repeat that until you feel like you've got a couple of words.

If you're not getting anything, just try to relax and speak some gibberish, it may even be a sound you've heard someone else use when praying in tongues. Remember, it's not for your mind but for your spirit.

The invitation is to go beyond our understanding and let the Spirit speak for us. Take a couple of these words and try speaking them. You may feel the presence of God in your physical body as you do this, or you may feel your spirit get stronger. God may even speak back to you or show you an image in your minds eye.

After you feel like its time to conclude, ask Holy Spirit how He wants to strengthen you in this gift.

Ways to Pray

- That we would see people in our town come to know Jesus!
- That our people would be hungry for fresh outpourings of His Presence and for the fruits of the Spirit.
- That we would agree with what God says about us and therefore walk in authority and power.
- That there would be an increase in bridal love for Jesus that leads to unprecedented consecration and holiness in the Church.