



# Bethel South Sermon Notes - “I Want It All”

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Gowans

**Date:** May 24, 2026

**Scriptures:** Acts 1-2, John 10:10, Zech. 4:6

## Main Idea

Pentecost was not just a historical event — it was an invitation into a Spirit-filled life. God does not want powerless Christianity; He wants believers filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered to live boldly, love deeply, overcome sin, and walk in intimacy with Him.

## 1. God has more for you

The message begins with a simple prayer:

“God, if there is more of You, I want all of it.”

Many believers settle for lukewarm Christianity when God is inviting them into fullness.

### Key Thought:

Salvation is not the finish line — it’s the beginning.

## 2. Pentecost changed everything

Acts 2 describes the moment the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples.

### Acts 2:1-4

- The disciples were gathered together in unity.
- Suddenly, the sound of a rushing mighty wind filled the house.
- Tongues of fire rested on each person.
- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

### Important:

The Holy Spirit came upon ALL of them — not just leaders or “super spiritual” people.

### Key Thought:

God wants every believer to be filled.

## 3. Only God can fill the empty places in us

People try to fill the emptiness in their soul with:

- success

- **relationships**
- **distractions**
- **pleasure**
- **achievement**

But there is a God-shaped space inside every person that only the Holy Spirit can satisfy.

## **John 10:10**

Jesus came to give life “to the full.”

## **4. Christianity was never meant to be powerless**

Before Jesus ascended, He told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 1:8**

“You shall receive power...”

The Greek word for power is *dunamis*:

- **explosive power**
- **dynamite power**
- **supernatural empowerment**

### **The Holy Spirit gives power to:**

- **overcome sin**
- **endure suffering**
- **pray boldly**
- **witness effectively**
- **love people deeply**
- **walk in courage**

### **Key Thought:**

The Holy Spirit is not optional extra credit for Christians.

## **5. The book of Acts shows a consistent pattern**

Throughout Acts, believers repeatedly:

- **believed in Jesus**
- **received the Holy Spirit**
- **were empowered**
- **walked in spiritual gifts and boldness**

Examples:

- **Acts 2 — Pentecost**
- **Acts 8 — Samaritans receive the Spirit**
- **Acts 9 — Paul is filled**
- **Acts 10 — Cornelius’ household**
- **Acts 19 — Disciples at Ephesus**

## **Key Thought:**

The empowering work of the Holy Spirit mattered deeply to the early church.

## **6. Being filled is continual**

Paul says:

“Be filled with the Spirit.”

The language implies ongoing filling.

## **Key Thought:**

Yesterday’s filling is not enough for today’s battles.

You need fresh oil, fresh fire, fresh dependence on God.

## **7. Fear keeps people from receiving**

Many believers are hesitant or fearful about the Holy Spirit.

But Jesus said in Luke 11:

- **ask**
- **seek**
- **knock**

## **Key Thought:**

If God has a gift for you, why would you reject it?

## **8. The enemy fears Spirit-filled believers**

The sermon emphasizes:

- **the enemy is not intimidated by powerless Christianity**
- **behavior modification cannot transform people**
- **true freedom comes through the Spirit’s power**

## **Zechariah 4:6**

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit...”

## **9. The Holy Spirit is a Person, not just a force**

The invitation is relational:

- **welcome Him**
- **acknowledge Him**
- **depend on Him daily**

## **Daily Prayer:**

“Holy Spirit, fill me today.”

# The Three Baptisms

## 1. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ

This happens at salvation.

- You are born again.
- The Holy Spirit draws you to Jesus.
- Every believer has the Spirit within them.

### Important Distinction:

There is a difference between:

- the Spirit WITHIN you for salvation
- the Spirit UPON you for empowerment

The disciples were already believers before Pentecost, yet Jesus still told them to wait for power.

## 2. A disciple baptizes you in water

Water baptism is:

- an outward declaration of inward transformation
- symbolic of dying to your old life
- an act of obedience and identification with Jesus

### Key Thought:

Something spiritual happens in water baptism – it is more than symbolism.

## 3. Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize people with:

- the Holy Spirit
- and fire

The word baptism means immersion.

### Illustration:

Like a cucumber immersed in vinegar becomes a pickle, believers immersed in the Holy Spirit are transformed.

### When filled with the Spirit:

- you speak differently
- think differently
- love differently
- pray differently
- live differently

# Key Takeaway:

Pentecost was not just about an experience — it was about empowerment.

God is inviting believers into:

- deeper intimacy
- spiritual power
- bold faith
- transformed living
- continual dependence on the Holy Spirit

The Christian life was never meant to be lived empty.

# Discussion Questions:

1. **What does “lukewarm Christianity” look like in today’s culture, and how can believers avoid settling into it?**
2. **Why do you think many Christians are comfortable with salvation but hesitant about the Holy Spirit’s power and gifts?**
3. **What is the difference between trying to change through self-effort versus being transformed by the Holy Spirit?**
4. **The message emphasized that the baptism of the Holy Spirit provides "dynamite power" (Dunamis) for various aspects of life, such as overcoming sin, praying effectively, loving people, and walking in boldness. In what areas of your life do you most desire or feel the need for this kind of power?**
5. **Pastor Mike encouraged us to continually ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit, comparing it to regularly filling a car with gas. What is one practical step you can take this week to intentionally seek a fresh filling or deeper immersion in the Holy Spirit's presence and power?**