

DIGGING DEEPER



The Holy Spirit Living Within Us: Born Again to Freedom

Mar 8, 2026

This powerful exploration of the Holy Spirit takes us on a transformative journey from Nicodemus's midnight conversation with Jesus to the birth of the early church at Pentecost. We discover that being born again is not a metaphor but a spiritual reality where God's Spirit literally takes residence within us. Through multiple biblical accounts, we see a beautiful pattern emerge: whether the Holy Spirit comes before baptism, during baptism, or after baptism, the crucial truth is that God generously pours out His Spirit on all who believe. The message reminds us that we become God's prized possession, transformed from the inside out with hearts capable of loving as Jesus loved. What's particularly striking is how the Holy Spirit brings freedom to those who were once enslaved by fear, illustrated powerfully through the story of African orphans who discovered they are no longer slaves to fear but children of God. This isn't just ancient history; it's an invitation for each of us today to experience that same transformative power, to step into the freedom that comes when the Spirit of the Lord makes His home in our hearts.

1. How does the concept of being 'born again' through the Holy Spirit challenge our understanding of spiritual transformation versus physical or intellectual change?

2. Peter went from denying Jesus three times to boldly proclaiming the gospel to thousands at Pentecost. What does this transformation teach us about the power of the Holy Spirit to redeem our past failures?

3. The sermon shows different sequences of baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit across various biblical accounts. Why might God work differently in different people's lives, and what does this reveal about His personal relationship with each believer?

4. Jesus told Nicodemus that the Spirit is like wind that blows wherever it wants. How comfortable are we with the unpredictable and uncontrollable nature of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?

5. The Ethiopian eunuch asked to be baptized immediately upon understanding the Gospel. What barriers or hesitations might prevent us from responding to God's call with such urgency today?

6. Saul persecuted Christians before becoming Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. How does his story challenge our assumptions about who God can use and transform?

7. The sermon emphasizes that being born again means loving one another deeply. In what practical ways can we demonstrate that our hearts have been changed by the Holy Spirit?

8. The African Children's Choir sings 'I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God.' What specific fears in your life need to be surrendered to experience the freedom that comes from the Holy Spirit?

9. Peter had to overcome cultural barriers to share the gospel with Samaritans and Gentiles. What cultural, social, or personal barriers might the Holy Spirit be calling you to cross today?

10. The sermon describes believers as God's 'prized possession' or 'first fruits.' How does understanding your identity as cherished by God change the way you view yourself and your purpose?

Remember...

"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone and a new life has begun."