

# DIGGING DEEPER



## Living in the In-Between: The Ascension of Jesus

Apr 19, 2026

This powerful message takes us into the space between promise and fulfillment, exploring the ascension of Jesus and the birth of the early church in Acts chapter 1. We discover that the story of Jesus didn't end at the resurrection but continues through us today. The disciples found themselves in an uncomfortable limbo, no longer students but not yet leaders, called to wait for a promise while being commissioned for a mission. Three essential elements emerge for our own spiritual journey: the promise of the Holy Spirit that God will fulfill in His timing, the power that comes not for our comfort but to make us witnesses in our homes, workplaces, and to the ends of the earth, and the prayer that creates genuine unity among believers. We learn that waiting doesn't mean God has forgotten us, just as a planted seed requires patience before it sprouts. The disciples asked when their kingdom would be restored, but Jesus redirected them to a greater kingdom mission. This challenges us to examine whether we're treating our faith like a finish line or recognizing it as a starting point for impacting the world around us.

1. The sermon describes the disciples as being in a limbo between being learners and leaders. What season of waiting or transition are you currently experiencing, and how might God be preparing you for what comes next?

2. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit hundreds of years before Pentecost through the prophet Joel. How does understanding God's long-term faithfulness to His promises affect the way you wait for answers to your own prayers?

3. The disciples asked Jesus about restoring Israel's kingdom, but He redirected them to a mission of being witnesses. When have you been focused on your own agenda when God was actually calling you to something greater?

4. The sermon emphasizes that the story of Jesus continues through us today. In what specific ways are you participating in writing the ongoing story of Jesus in your community?

5. Acts 1:8 calls believers to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth, including people we don't like. Who are the 'Samaritans' in your life that God might be calling you to reach with His love?

6. Pastor Heather describes unity as coming not from agreement but from everyone seeking God's will together. How does this challenge your understanding of what it means to be unified with other believers?

7. The image of standing with folded arms versus open arms before God is powerful. What barriers or defenses have you built up that might be preventing you from receiving what God wants to do in your life?

8. The sermon states that Satan bulldozes past boundaries while God gently knocks and waits. How can you become more sensitive to God's gentle leading rather than being pushed around by the enemy's tactics?

9. Prayer is presented as the key to both unity and spiritual power in the early church. How would your church community change if everyone committed to constant, unified prayer like the disciples did?

10. Pastor Heather confesses that busy mornings can cause her to go through motions until pre-service prayer realigns her heart. What spiritual practices help you move from going through religious motions to genuine expectation of encountering God?

**Remember...**

"God is patient and he's so kind. And he will stand there knocking. But if we don't open the door and let him in, he's not going to push past us."