



BECOMING THE CHURCH

HOLY SPIRIT POWER

Acts 1:4–8 | October 18, 2026 | Pastor Dave Anderson

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Dave opens with a question that stings: what are you doing right now that would completely fail if the Holy Spirit were not real? Not harder. Fail. His honest answer is that most of us could keep doing most of what we do without any help from the Spirit, because we have plans, budgets, calendars, strategies, and a podcast for every problem. One Barna study found that 58 percent of American Christians call the Holy Spirit a symbol of God's power rather than a living being. This is the land of the self-made man, and that attitude did not stop at the church doors. The result is a tired, anxious people trying to be the Holy Spirit for our kids, our marriages, and ourselves. The church in Acts worked the other way around. Jesus told ordinary, frightened people not to go get started but to wait. Power first, witness second. After ten days of prayer the Spirit fell, and the same Peter who had denied Jesus preached to three thousand. From there the Spirit kept leading them outward: into Samaria, into Cornelius's home, and away from doors He closed in Asia. Dave names two shifts the Spirit is asking of him and invites K1 into them: from planning for God to waiting on the Spirit, and from self-reliance to Spirit-dependence. The church that changes a culture is not the best organized church. It is the most dependent one.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Start where Pastor Dave started. What are you doing right now that would completely fail if the Holy Spirit were not real? Not harder, actually fail.
- 2 More than half of American Christians call the Holy Spirit a symbol rather than a living person. Where do you notice yourself treating the Spirit like a distant relative, real but rarely called on?
- 3 Jesus told them to wait before they worked: power first, witness second. Where in your life have you reversed that order, and what has it cost you?
- 4 The Spirit kept leading the early church across barriers they never wanted to cross, into Samaria, into a Gentile's home, and away from a door closed in Asia. What barrier might the Spirit be asking you to cross, and what makes you hesitate?
- 5 Dave named two shifts: from planning for God to waiting on the Spirit, and from self-reliance to Spirit-dependence. Which one is more uncomfortable for you, and why?
- 6 **This week's challenge:** Several times a day this week, not just at the start of it, stop and pray: "Holy Spirit, I can't live out the mission Jesus has given us on my own. Fill me with your presence. Lead me. Show me who you want me to love, how you want to use me, and where you want me to go. I will say yes." Then pray it again for K1, trading I and me for we and us. Listen for the quiet nudge, obey it before next Sunday, and come back ready to tell somebody what happened.

Last Week's Challenge Update:

Last Sunday Pastor Jenna called us to repentance rather than to a prayer goal. Each of us named the one that landed and committed to making prayer our first move this week, before troubleshooting, scrolling, or asking anyone else. Start today by sharing how that actually went.