

## **RAISE THE SAILS**

This sermon uses the metaphor of a sailboat to illustrate how Christians often struggle with their own efforts (rowing) rather than utilizing the power of the Holy Spirit (raising the sails). The pastor addresses two main questions: who is the Holy Spirit (establishing Him as the third person of the Trinity, not merely a force), and whether believers can trust they have the Holy Spirit. He acknowledges the theological debate between those who believe the Holy Spirit is received at baptism versus those who advocate for a second "baptism of the Holy Spirit," examining key Acts passages used by both camps. While respecting both positions, he leans toward the view that believers receive the Holy Spirit upon repentance and baptism, citing Peter's words in Acts 2:38-39 as the clearest biblical pattern. The sermon concludes by shifting focus from "Do I have the Holy Spirit?" to the more crucial question: "Am I living in the power of the Holy Spirit and cooperating with Him in my daily life?"

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some practical ways we can "raise the sails" in our personal lives to better cooperate with the Holy Spirit rather than relying solely on our own efforts?
2. The pastor mentions five reasons why churches might neglect the Holy Spirit's power. (The Devil's influence, We don't know what we don't know, Bizarre and offensive behavior by those claiming to be 'spirit-filed', Discomfort with mystery, and a desire for control) Which of these resonates most with your experience? Is there anything else that causes you to be reticent regarding the work of the Holy Spirit?
3. How does understanding the Holy Spirit as a person rather than a force change the way we relate to Him in prayer, worship, and decision-making?
4. What are your thoughts on the theological debate about receiving the Holy Spirit at baptism versus a second baptism experience? How might both camps learn from each other?
5. Peter said, "This promise is for you and your children," in Acts 2:39. Do you think the children of believers are gifted with the Holy Spirit before they make their own profession of faith?
6. The sermon emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is "no less present and powerful today" than in apostolic times. What evidence do you see (or hope to see) of the Spirit's active work in our church and community today?
7. How can we help children and new believers better understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives?