Pastor Rob Goyette - 10.25.2026.

“Many Called, Few Choose”

Summary

What does it mean to truly be alive in the most significant moment in human history? That is the question at the heart of this message. Drawing from Daniel 12:4, where the prophet is told that knowledge will increase dramatically in the last days, we are invited to consider the staggering pace at which the world is changing and to ask ourselves whether our spiritual lives are keeping up. The central tension here is between two kinds of knowledge: one that promotes independence from God, rooted in the original temptation in the Garden, and one that draws us deeper into dependence upon Him. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life are not just ancient symbols; they represent a choice we face every single day. The message is clear and urgent: we were born for this hour, and God has not left us without resources. The Holy Spirit is not an afterthought or a theological footnote. He is described through the original Aramaic as the Paracleta, the one who ends the curse, a redeemer and defender who comes to save us from the power of sin by living through us. When we understand who He truly is, the question is no longer whether we need Him, but whether we are willing to receive everything He is offering us.

Small Group Study Guide – Many Called, Few Choose

"Janet, Get Your Purse" Series – Session 5

OVERVIEW

This week's message challenged us to examine what we truly believe about the Holy Spirit and His ongoing role in our lives. Pastor Rob walked through the Scriptures to distinguish between receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation and the separate experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He called the congregation to examine their own doctrinal assumptions, show up hungry, and prepare for a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. You were born for this moment in history. This is not an accident of timing. God placed you in this generation deliberately, and that placement comes with both responsibility and opportunity.

2. Knowledge is increasing — in every direction. Daniel 12:4 describes a time when knowledge would increase rapidly. That reality cuts both ways. The world's knowledge is accelerating, and so is the need for the church to mature and operate in the fullness of what God has provided.

3. The Holy Spirit is not optional equipment. Drawing from John 14, Pastor Rob highlighted that Jesus described the Holy Spirit using language that means "another of the same kind" — a Savior, a defender, a redeemer who ends the curse. He is not an add-on to faith. He is central to it.

4. Receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are two distinct experiences. In John 20:19-22, the disciples received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them after His resurrection. In Acts 1, Jesus told those same disciples — who had already received the Holy Spirit — to wait for something more: the baptism of the Holy Spirit. These are separate events on separate timelines.

5. The promise is for every generation. Acts 2:38-39 makes clear that the gift of the Holy Spirit is not a one-time historical event limited to the early church. The promise extends to every person whom God calls — including us, our children, and those who come after.

6. Many are called, but few choose. The parable in Matthew 22 reminds us that the invitation is open to all, but responding to that invitation in a worthy and wholehearted way requires a deliberate choice. Showing up on our own terms is not the same as showing up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening — Getting Comfortable

1. When you hear the phrase "the baptism in the Holy Spirit," what is your immediate reaction? Where did that reaction come from — personal experience, upbringing, something you were taught, or something you witnessed?
2. Have you ever been in a church environment that felt dry or lifeless? What did that feel like, and how did it affect your faith?

Digging into the Word

3. Read John 20:19-22 together. The disciples saw the risen Christ and received the Holy Spirit in this moment. According to Romans 10:9-10, what does this tell us about when they were born again? Why does the sequence of events matter?
4. Read Acts 1:4-8 together. Jesus tells His disciples — who have already received the Holy Spirit — to wait for something more. What does He call it, and what does He say it will produce in their lives? Why do you think Jesus considered this so essential that he told them not to leave Jerusalem without it?
5. Read Acts 2:38-39 together. Peter says the promise is for "you and your children and for all who are far off." What does this language tell us about the intended scope and duration of this gift? How does this challenge the idea that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was only for the early church?
6. In Matthew 22:1-14, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding feast. Pastor Rob pointed out that the final line — "many are called, but few are chosen" — is better understood as "many are called, but few choose." How does the context of the parable support that reading? What does it mean practically for how we respond to God's invitations?

Going Deeper

7. Pastor Rob described two kinds of knowledge — one that promotes independence from God and one that promotes dependence on God. Where do you see that tension playing out in your own life right now?
8. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to more than 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6), but by the time the disciples gathered in the upper room, only 120 were present. What do you think happened to the others? What might cause someone to move from being a witness of something powerful to being absent when it matters most?
9. Pastor Rob said, "I refuse to live below the standard that God has given for us to live by." What does that statement stir in you? Is there an area of your spiritual life where you have quietly settled for less than what Scripture describes?

10. Pastor Christie shared a footnote on the word "parakletos" — that the Aramaic root carries the meaning of "a redeemer who ends the curse." How does understanding the Holy Spirit in those terms change the way you think about inviting him into your daily life?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week, Choose One:

- **Search it yourself.** Pastor Rob referenced the Bereans in Acts 17:11, who examined the Scriptures daily to see if what they were hearing was true. Take 20-30 minutes this week to read through John 20:19-22, Acts 1:1-8, and Acts 2:1-39 on your own. Write down what you observe about the sequence of events and what questions arise.
- **Examine your assumptions.** Identify one belief you hold about the Holy Spirit that you received from someone else — a pastor, a parent, a denomination — rather than from your own study of Scripture. Spend time this week looking at what the Bible actually says about it.
- **Come hungry next week.** Pastor Rob announced that next Sunday the church will be praying specifically for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Make a decision now to attend. Invite someone who might benefit. Come with an open and expectant heart rather than a settled and defended one.
- **Pray with honesty.** If you have uncertainty, skepticism, or even fear around the Holy Spirit, bring that honestly to God in prayer this week. Ask him to lead you into truth and to give you a teachable spirit.
- **Help someone else.** If you have already experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit, consider how you would explain it to someone who has never heard of it or who was taught it does not exist. Practice putting it into your own words, grounded in Scripture, so you are ready to help others navigate the conversation.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Pastor Rob reminded us that Jesus told his disciples not to leave Jerusalem without the promise — not because they were unqualified, but because they were not yet fully equipped. The same invitation stands today. The feast is prepared. The garment has been provided. The question is simply whether we will show up, on God's terms, ready to receive everything he has for us.

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPT

Close your group time by praying together. You may want to use this as a guide:

Ask God to remove any fear, pride, or inherited assumption that has kept you at a distance from the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Thank Him that the promise is not expired. Ask Him to prepare your heart for what he wants to do — in your life, in your church, and through your generation.

Next week's message will focus on the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gift of praying in other tongues. Come prepared and bring someone with you.

Main Points – Many Called, Few Choose

Sermon Summary: In this message, part of an ongoing series titled "Janet, Get Your Purse," Pastor Rob speaks of the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a distinct, second experience separate from salvation. Drawing from multiple scriptures, he challenges two common doctrinal errors: that the Holy Spirit is fully received at the moment of salvation with nothing more to receive, and that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was a one-time historical event meant only to birth the early church. The promise of the Holy Spirit, as identified by Jesus in Acts 1 and confirmed by Peter in Acts 2, is available to every believer across every generation. The sermon calls the congregation to hunger for a deeper experience with God, to reject dry religion, and to prepare for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which Pastor Rob plans to pray for corporately the following week.

Key Points:
- The world is in a season of rapidly increasing knowledge, fulfilling Daniel 12:4, and the church must grow at a corresponding pace through the Spirit of God
- Dry, formal religion without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is insufficient for the hour in which believers are living
- The Holy Spirit is not merely a helper or comforter but functions as a Savior in his own right, described in the Greek as parakletos, one who ends the curse and redeems from its effects
- Salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are two distinct experiences, evidenced by the sequential events in John 20 and Acts 1-2
- The disciples were born again in John 20 when Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit, but they were still commanded to wait for the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Acts 1
- The promise of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, as declared by Peter in Acts 2:38-39, is for every generation, not only for the early church
- Many are called but few choose to respond, as illustrated in the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22, meaning the reception of God's gifts is always a matter of personal choice
- The gift of tongues functions as a gateway into the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, freeing the believer from the limitations of human understanding
- The congregation is called to be present, teachable, and hungry, like the 120 in the upper room rather than the 380 who were absent

Scripture Reference:
- Daniel 12:4, describing the increase of knowledge at the time of the end
- John 14:15-18, where Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as another Savior and helper
- Acts 1:3-8, where Jesus commands the disciples to wait for the baptism in the Holy Spirit
- Acts 2:38-39, where Peter declares the promise of the Holy Spirit for all generations
- John 20:19-22, where Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples after his resurrection

- Romans 10:9-10, defining the requirements for salvation
- Romans 8:9, affirming that the Spirit of Christ dwells in every born-again believer
- 1 Corinthians 12:1, Paul's declaration that believers should not be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, describing Christ's post-resurrection appearances to over 500 people
- Matthew 22:1-14, the parable of the wedding feast

Discussion Questions – Many Called, Few Choose

The sermon describes two kinds of knowledge — one that promotes independence from God and one that promotes dependence on Him — how do you personally discern which kind of knowledge you are pursuing in your daily life?

Pastor Rob notes that after the resurrection, the group of witnesses dwindled from 500 to 120 who gathered in the upper room to wait for the Holy Spirit — what do you think causes people to drift away from pursuing the fullness of what God has promised, and how do you guard against that in your own life?

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as 'another Savior' of the same kind as Himself, and the Aramaic root of the word paracleta means 'a redeemer who ends the curse' — how does understanding the Holy Spirit as a Savior rather than simply a helper change the way you relate to Him?

The sermon draws a distinction between receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a separate experience — what has your tradition taught you about this distinction, and how does examining the scriptural timeline in John 20 and Acts 1-2 challenge or confirm that teaching?

Peter declared in Acts 2 that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for believers, their children, and all who are far off — how does understanding this promise as ongoing rather than historically limited affect the urgency with which you pursue it for yourself and those around you?

The parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22 suggests that many are called but few choose to respond on the host's terms rather than their own — in what areas of your spiritual life might you be showing up for the benefits of faith while resisting full surrender to God's terms?

Pastor Rob said that dry, formless religion is a 'stench in the nostrils of God' — what is the difference between religious activity and genuine engagement with the Holy Spirit, and how would you evaluate your own spiritual practices against that standard?

Daniel 12:4 describes a time of the end marked by knowledge increasing rapidly, and the sermon raises the question of whether the church is maturing at a comparable rate — what does spiritual maturity look like in a generation overwhelmed by information, and what role does the Holy Spirit play in that growth?

The sermon describes the gift of tongues as a 'gateway gift' that frees believers from the limits of human understanding and opens access to the other gifts of the Spirit — what fears, doubts, or doctrinal objections have kept you or others you know from seriously considering this gift?

Pastor Rob expresses a personal refusal to live below the standard God describes in Scripture, including seeing the sick recover through prayer — what would it look like practically for you to refuse to settle for less than the full abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10, and what is the first step toward that?

Scriptures – Many Called, Few Choose

Here is a list of all scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

Explicitly Referenced

- Acts 17:11 — The Bereans searching the scriptures with a ready mind
- Daniel 12:4 — Sealing the book until the time of the end; knowledge increasing
- Genesis 2:9, 2:17 — The two trees in the garden; the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- John 10:10 — Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly
- 1 Corinthians 12:1 — Paul not wanting believers to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts
- John 14:15-18 — Jesus promising the Holy Spirit as another Helper/Savior who would not leave believers as orphans
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 — Christ dying for sins, being buried, rising on the third day, and appearing to Peter, the twelve, and more than 500 brothers
- Acts 1:1-11 — Jesus presenting himself alive after his suffering, commanding the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then ascending into heaven
- Matthew 22:1-14 — The parable of the wedding feast; many called but few chosen
- Romans 10:9-11 — Confessing with the mouth and believing in the heart for salvation
- John 20:19-22 — Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection and breathing on them to receive the Holy Spirit
- Romans 8:9 — Those who belong to Christ have the Spirit of God dwelling in them
- Acts 1:3-8 — Jesus speaking about the kingdom of God, commanding the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the coming power to be witnesses
- Acts 2:38-39 — Peter calling for repentance and baptism, promising the gift of the Holy Spirit, declaring the promise is for all whom God calls
- 1 Corinthians 14:14 — Praying in an unknown tongue, the spirit praying while the understanding is unfruitful

Alluded To Without Direct Citation

- Haggai 2:9 — The glory of the latter house being greater than the former
- Esther 4:14 — Being born for such a time as this
- 1 Corinthians 13:10 — When that which is perfect has come, that which is in part is done away with (referenced as a doctrinal argument the sermon addresses)
- Acts 10:44-46 — The Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius's household while Peter was still speaking
- Acts 2:1-4 — The day of Pentecost; the rushing wind, tongues of fire, and speaking in other tongues
- 1 Peter 2:2 — Desiring the sincere milk of the Word
- Ephesians 4:14 — Not being tossed around by every wind of teaching and doctrine

Devotional – Many Called, Few Choose

Based on the Series: "Janet, Get Your Purse" — The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

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Day 1: You Were Born for This Moment

Reading: Daniel 12:4; Esther 4:14

Devotional: The prophet Daniel was told that in the time of the end, knowledge would increase and many would run to and fro. We are living in that moment. The pace of the world is staggering, and the noise is relentless. Yet God did not place you here by accident. Before the foundation of the world, He chose this generation, this decade, this moment for you to be alive and active. The question is not whether you were called. You were. The question is whether you will respond to that call with the full weight of your attention and devotion. Do not let the speed of the world cause you to miss the significance of where you stand in history. You are not a bystander. You are a participant in something God has been building toward since creation. Lean in. Show up. Be present.

Reflection: In what areas of your life have you been distracted from the assignment God has placed before you in this season?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today with no phone, no screen, and no noise. Ask God specifically what He has called you to in this moment of history. Write down what comes to your heart.

Day 2: The Holy Spirit Is Not an Afterthought

Reading: John 14:15-18; Acts 1:3-8

Devotional: Jesus did not ascend and leave His followers to figure things out on their own. He made a promise. He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem because something was coming that they could not afford to miss. The Holy Spirit was not a consolation prize for those who missed out on walking with Jesus in the flesh. He is God fully present, fully active, and fully committed to finishing what Jesus began. As the Passion Translation renders John 14, He is described as another Savior, one who comes to end the curse and walk alongside us as a helper, defender, and comforter. To treat the Holy Spirit as optional, uncomfortable, or irrelevant is to misunderstand the very heart of God's plan for His people. He is not an addendum to salvation. He is the ongoing presence of Jesus in the life of every believer.

Reflection: Have you ever treated the Holy Spirit as a secondary or optional part of your faith? What shaped that perspective?

Practical Application: Read John chapters 14 through 16 in their entirety this week. Each time Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit, underline or note what He says the Spirit will do. Let the words of Jesus reshape your understanding.

Day 3: Called, But Will You Choose?

Reading: Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 3:20

Devotional: The parable of the wedding feast is not a story about exclusion. It is a story about response. The king's table was full of prepared food. The invitation went out broadly, to the good and the bad alike. The tragedy was not a lack of invitation. The tragedy was a lack of response. People went back to their farms, their businesses, their familiar routines, and missed the feast entirely. The man who arrived without a wedding garment attempted to enter on his own terms, refusing the provision the king had already made available at the door. God is not withholding from you. He has already prepared the table. He has already provided the garment. The only question that remains is whether you will come, and whether you will come on His terms rather than your own.

Reflection: Are there areas of your walk with God where you have been showing up on your own terms rather than fully surrendering to what He has prepared for you?

Practical Application: Identify one area of your spiritual life where you have been holding back or maintaining control. Bring it to God in prayer today and ask Him to help you release it fully into His hands.

Day 4: Saved, But There Is More

Reading: John 20:19-22; Acts 2:1-4, 38-39

Devotional: The disciples were in the room when Jesus breathed on them and said, receive the Holy Spirit. In that moment, they met every biblical requirement for salvation. They had seen the risen Christ, they believed, and the Spirit of God took up residence within them. And yet Jesus told them to wait. Wait for what? They already had the Holy Spirit living inside them. What they were waiting for was something distinct, something more. The baptism of the Holy Spirit described in Acts chapter 2 is not the same event as the new birth. Peter makes this unmistakably clear when he tells the crowd in Acts 2:38-39 that the promise of the Holy Spirit is for them, for their children, and for all who are far off. That promise was never meant to expire. It belongs to every generation that calls upon the name of the Lord.

Reflection: Have you ever been taught that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was either identical to salvation or no longer available today? How does the scriptural sequence of events challenge or confirm what you were taught?

Practical Application: Study Acts chapters 1 and 2 side by side. Note the timeline carefully. Ask God to give you an open and teachable heart as you read, and write down any questions that arise for further study or conversation with a trusted pastor or teacher.

Day 5: Open the Box and Put It On

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

Devotional: God is not interested in leaving you ignorant. The Apostle Paul opens his teaching on spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 with a direct statement: he does not want believers to be without knowledge about these things. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not relics of a distant era. They are tools placed in the hands of ordinary people so that the extraordinary work of God can continue in the earth. Praying in the Spirit, as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 14, is not about performance or spiritual pride. It is about moving beyond the limits of human understanding and allowing the Spirit of God to intercede and build up what our minds alone cannot reach. The Holy Spirit has come to end the curse, to empower the called, and to equip the willing. The invitation stands. The provision has been made. It is time to open what God has placed before you and put it on, so that you can run the race set before you.

Reflection: What fears, misconceptions, or past experiences have kept you from fully embracing the gifts and presence of the Holy Spirit in your daily life?

Practical Application: Find a quiet place today and pray a simple, honest prayer. Tell God you are willing to receive whatever He has for you. Ask Him to fill you afresh with His Spirit, to move past every religious barrier, and to make you fully available for the work He has prepared for you in this generation.

This reading plan is designed to be used alongside personal Scripture study. Cross-reference all passages in your own Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to be your primary teacher as you read.