Pastor Rob Goyette - 11.01.2026.

“The Baptism with the Holy Spirit”

Summary

What if there is more available to us in our faith than we have ever been told? That is the central question driving this powerful message, which walks us through one of the most significant and often misunderstood gifts in the Christian life: the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Drawing from key passages in Acts chapters 1, 2, and 19, as well as the Gospel of John, we are shown a progressive movement in how God relates to us through His Spirit. First, the Spirit is with us, even before we come to faith. Then, at salvation, He moves in us, making us the temple of the living God. But the message does not stop there. Jesus Himself promised something more, a coming of the Spirit upon us, bringing power to fulfill our calling as witnesses in the world. This third dimension is not a spiritual luxury reserved for a select few. It is, as the message compellingly argues from Scripture, standard issue for every believer. The account of Pentecost in Acts 2 and the encounter Paul has with disciples in Ephesus in Acts 19 both point to the same truth: receiving the Holy Spirit in this fuller sense is not automatic, and it is not optional. It is an invitation that carries tremendous implications for how we live, how we pray, and how we impact the world around us.

Small Group Study Guide – The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Overview

This session explores one of the most significant and sometimes misunderstood gifts available to believers: the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Pastor Rob walked through Scripture to show that the Holy Spirit works progressively in a believer's life — first being *with* us, then *in* us at salvation, and then *upon* us through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This guide is designed to help your group slow down, dig into the Word, and have honest conversations about where each person finds themselves in this journey.

Key Takeaways

1. The Holy Spirit works progressively. Scripture reveals three distinct dimensions of the Holy Spirit's work: He is *with* us before salvation, *in* us when we are born again, and *upon* us through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These are not the same experience.

2. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift, not an achievement. Just as salvation is received by faith and not earned by works, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gracious gift from God that requires a response of faith and surrender. Peter in Acts was a broken, failed man — and God used him powerfully after this experience.

3. The gift of tongues has two distinct expressions. One is a personal, edifying gift available to all Spirit-baptized believers for private prayer and communion with God. The other is a gift for corporate worship that requires interpretation. Confusing these two expressions has caused unnecessary division and misunderstanding in the church.

4. Religious doctrines have sometimes held believers back from the fullness of what God offers. Pastor Rob identified several common teachings that contradict Scripture, including the idea that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was a one-time event only for the early church, or that the gift of tongues is only for certain people.

5. This gift is not optional for the hour we are living in. Pastor Rob emphasized that we are living in a uniquely consequential moment in history. The power of the Holy Spirit is not a spiritual luxury — it is essential equipment for every believer called to be a witness in a dark world.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Before today, what was your understanding of the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Where did that understanding come from — a church tradition, a specific teacher, personal study, or something else?
2. Pastor Rob opened with the story of Mike and Janet — people who were uncomfortable with what they encountered in a Spirit-filled worship service. Have you ever had a "Janet, get your purse" moment? What triggered it, and how do you look back on it now?

Going Deeper

3. Pastor Rob described three progressive dimensions of the Holy Spirit's work: *with* us, *in* us, and *upon* us. Which of these three best describes where you currently find yourself? Is there a next step you sense God is inviting you toward?
4. Read Acts 1:8. Jesus connected the coming of the Holy Spirit directly to being his witnesses. How does understanding the *purpose* of this gift — empowerment for witness — change the way you think about it?
5. Pastor Rob used the illustration of packing a parachute before jumping behind enemy lines. He asked whether anyone in that situation would want the instructor to hurry up. How does that image challenge the way you approach learning about the things of God?
6. Peter denied Jesus three times, and yet he became the one through whom the Holy Spirit fell on entire households. What does that tell you about who God chooses to use? How does that speak to any shame or sense of disqualification you may carry?
7. Pastor Rob drew a distinction between a "common" gift of tongues available to all Spirit-baptized believers for personal edification, and a "corporate" gift of tongues meant for congregational use with interpretation. Did this distinction help clarify anything for you? Do you still have questions about it?
8. In Acts 4:29-31, believers who had already been filled with the Holy Spirit prayed with desperation and were filled again. What does that tell us about the ongoing nature of this gift? Is there an area of your life where you need a fresh filling right now?

Personal Reflection

9. Pastor Rob said, "Your spirit is longing to commune with God, but religious spirits say it's not for you." Have you ever felt held back from pursuing something in your faith because of what you were taught or what others might think? How did you navigate that?
10. He described the gift of tongues as "standard issue" — equipment given to every believer, like gear issued to every soldier. Does that framing change how you think about this gift? Why or why not?

Practical Applications

This week, consider doing one or more of the following:

- **Read Acts 2, Acts 10, and Acts 19 in one sitting.** Notice the consistent pattern of what happens when the Holy Spirit comes upon people. Write down what you observe.
- **If you have already been baptized in the Holy Spirit**, set aside intentional time this week to pray in tongues — not as a religious exercise, but as a genuine act of communion with God. Ask him to fill you afresh.
- **If you have never been baptized in the Holy Spirit and desire this gift**, find a trusted Pastor Rob or elder and ask them to pray with you. You do not have to wait. The Scripture is clear: this gift is for you.
- **If you still have questions or reservations**, write them down. Bring them to your group, your pastor, or study them through the Scriptures referenced in this guide. Do not let unanswered questions become a permanent barrier.
- **Share what you are learning.** Pastor Rob noted that the people in your wake need someone to help them along the path. Is there someone in your life who has never heard that there is more available to them in their walk with God?

Scriptures Referenced in This Sermon

The following passages were cited or summarized during this message. Review them on your own or as a group for deeper study:

- John 14:15-17 — Jesus promises the Holy Spirit as a helper who will be *in* believers
- John 20:22 — Jesus breathes on the disciples; they receive the Holy Spirit
- Acts 1:4-8 — Jesus commands the disciples to wait for the promise of the Father
- Acts 2:1-4 — The day of Pentecost; the Holy Spirit falls on all present
- Acts 2:17-21 — Peter quotes the prophet Joel describing the Spirit poured out on all flesh
- Acts 2:39 — The promise is for all who are far off, everyone the Lord calls
- Acts 4:29-31 — Already Spirit-filled believers pray and are filled again
- Acts 10:44-46 — The Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles while Peter is still speaking
- Acts 19:1-6 — Paul asks disciples whether they received the Holy Spirit when they believed
- Romans 12:3 — God has given every person a measure of faith
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-30 — The gifts of the Spirit and their distribution in the body
- 1 Corinthians 14:2-5, 14-15 — The purpose and proper use of the gift of tongues
- Jude 1:20 — Building yourself up by praying in the Holy Spirit
- Job 32:8 — The spirit in man receives understanding through the breath of the Almighty
- Joel 2:28-32 — The prophecy of the Spirit poured out on all flesh
- Mark 16:17-18 — Signs that follow those who believe
- Luke 22:60 — Peter denies Jesus while still speaking

Closing Prayer Guide

Close your group time by praying together. Consider structuring your prayer around these three movements:

Gratitude — Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the truth of his Word that gives you a foundation for faith.

Surrender — Invite the Holy Spirit to move in each person's life at whatever level they are ready to receive. Ask Him to remove fear, religious barriers, or past hurts that have kept anyone from the fullness of what He offers.

Intercession — Pray for the people in each group member's life who have not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or not yet heard that there is more available to them. Ask God to use your group as instruments of that message.

Main Points – The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Sermon Summary: This sermon, part of the ongoing "Janet, Get Your Purse" series, addresses the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a distinct and essential experience for every believer. The Holy Spirit's work in a Christian's life is progressive, moving from being "with" a person before salvation, to dwelling "in" them at the moment of new birth, to coming "upon" them in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This third dimension is not reserved for a select few but is standard issue for every believer, equipping them with supernatural power to fulfill their calling as witnesses of Jesus. The sermon directly confronts religious doctrines that have suppressed or denied this gift, particularly the cessationist view that tongues and Spirit baptism were only for the early church, and the misreading of 1 Corinthians 12 that limits tongues to certain individuals. Drawing on multiple passages from Acts and the Epistles, the pastor distinguishes between the personal, edifying gift of tongues available to all Spirit-baptized believers and the congregational gift of tongues that requires interpretation. The sermon closes with an invitation for believers to receive or be refreshed in the Holy Spirit, framing the experience as a cooperative act of childlike faith and surrender.

Key Points:
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is progressive: He is "with" all people by common grace, "in" believers at salvation, and "upon" believers at the baptism of the Holy Spirit, each representing a deeper dimension of His work
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not automatic at salvation but is a distinct, subsequent experience that requires a response of faith, just as salvation itself does
- The promise of the Holy Spirit poured out, as declared in Acts 2, is not limited to the early church but extends to all generations, as Peter explicitly states in Acts 2:39
- There are two distinct manifestations of tongues: a personal gift available to all Spirit-baptized believers for self-edification and communion with God, and a congregational gift intended to be accompanied by interpretation for the benefit of the body
- The rhetorical question in 1 Corinthians 12:30, "Do all speak with tongues," refers to the congregational gift, not the personal gift, just as the gift of faith in that same passage does not negate the measure of faith given to all believers in Romans 12:3
- Praying in tongues bypasses the limitations of the natural mind, allowing the human spirit to commune directly with God, building up the believer's inner man
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not about spiritual elitism or charismatic performance but is purposed for empowering believers to be effective witnesses in a lost world
- Even those already baptized in the Holy Spirit are called to ongoing, fresh infillings, as demonstrated by the disciples in Acts 4 who prayed for and received a fresh filling after already having received the Spirit at Pentecost
- Religious doctrines that deny or restrict the gifts of the Spirit are identified as spiritually harmful, holding believers captive beneath their God-given potential

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 1:4-8, the Father's promise and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon believers
- John 14:15-17, the Holy Spirit described as moving from being "with" to being "in" the disciples
- John 20:22, Jesus breathing on the disciples as the moment of their new birth
- Acts 2:1-4, the account of Pentecost and the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 2:17-21, Peter's quotation of Joel 2:28 explaining the outpouring
- Acts 2:39, the promise of the Spirit declared to be for all generations
- Acts 4:29-31, Spirit-baptized believers receiving a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 10:44-47, the Holy Spirit falling on the Gentiles, evidenced by tongues
- Acts 19:1-6, Paul encountering disciples who had not received the Holy Spirit and laying hands on them
- 1 Corinthians 12:30, the rhetorical question distinguishing the congregational gift of tongues
- 1 Corinthians 14:2-15, Paul's instruction on the proper use and purpose of tongues
- Romans 12:3, the measure of faith given to every believer
- Jude 1:20, building oneself up by praying in the Holy Spirit
- Job 32:8, the spirit of man receiving understanding through the breath of the Almighty
- Mark 16, the signs that follow all believers
- Luke 22:60, Peter's denial of Christ and the crowing of the rooster

Discussion Questions – The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Pastor Rob describes the Holy Spirit's relationship with believers as progressive -- with you, in you, and upon you -- and how does understanding this progression change the way you think about your own spiritual journey and what might still be available to you?

The sermon draws a parallel between packing a parachute before jumping behind enemy lines and receiving adequate spiritual preparation for the world we live in -- in what ways have you treated your spiritual development as optional rather than essential, and what might that cost you?

Peter is highlighted as a man who denied Jesus yet became one of the most powerful voices in the early church after receiving the Holy Spirit -- what does his story suggest about how God views personal failure in relation to calling and purpose?

The gift of tongues functions on two levels, one for personal edification and one for congregational use, how does it reshape the way you have previously understood or dismissed the gift?

The sermon describes religious doctrines as potentially being guarded by demonic influence, how do you personally discern the difference between a sound doctrinal conviction and a belief that may be limiting your spiritual growth?

Pastor Rob uses the analogy of knowing what a person actually likes, rather than assuming, to describe how we should approach worship -- in what ways might your current worship practices reflect your own preferences more than a genuine pursuit of what God desires?

Acts 19 records Paul asking disciples whether they had received the Holy Spirit after believing, which implies it was not assumed to be automatic -- what questions does that raise for you about the completeness of your own spiritual experience since coming to faith?

The sermon emphasizes that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is specifically tied to receiving power for witnessing and fulfilling one's calling -- how does connecting this gift to purpose and mission rather than personal experience alone change your motivation to pursue it?

Pastor Rob describes the mind as needing to become servant to the spirit rather than master over it, and in practical terms, what areas of your life might look different if your spiritual discernment consistently led your reasoning rather than the other way around?

The image of a baby freely making sounds at the table, uninhibited by the fact that no one fully understands her, is used to illustrate childlike spiritual expression -- what fears, social

pressures, or theological objections most prevent you from approaching God with that kind of uninhibited openness?

Scriptures – The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

1. Daniel 12:4
2. Matthew 22:1-14
3. Matthew 22:14
4. John 14:15-17
5. John 20:22
6. Romans 10:9-10
7. Acts 1:1
8. Acts 1:4-5
9. Acts 1:6-8
10. Acts 2:1-4
11. Acts 2:12
12. Acts 2:39
13. Acts 4:29-31
14. Acts 10:44-47
15. Acts 19:1-6
16. Luke 22:60
17. Mark 16:17
18. Matthew 3:11
19. Joel 2:28-32
20. Job 32:8
21. Romans 12:3
22. 1 Corinthians 12:9
23. 1 Corinthians 12:30
24. 1 Corinthians 14:2
25. 1 Corinthians 14:4
26. 1 Corinthians 14:6
27. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15
28. 2 Corinthians 11:14
29. 2 Timothy 4:3
30. James 3:1
31. James 5:14
32. Jude 1:20
33. John 4:23

Devotional – 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide – The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

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Theme Overview: This reading plan follows the sermon's central journey — from recognizing the Holy Spirit's presence in your life, to receiving the fullness of His power, to walking in that power as a witness in a world that desperately needs the gospel.

Day 1: He Has Been With You All Along

Reading: Psalm 139:1-18; John 14:15-17

Devotional:

Before you ever knew His name, He knew yours. The sermon reminded us that the Holy Spirit was with people long before they were born again — rescuing them from destruction, guiding them away from paths that would have ended them. The passage in John 14 draws a distinction that deserves slow, careful attention. Jesus tells His disciples that the Spirit has been with them, but that a day is coming when He will be in them. That progression is not accidental. God does not rush His work in a human heart. He approaches. He woos. He waits. Psalm 139 captures this reality with breathtaking intimacy — describing a God who has searched you, known you, and hemmed you in from behind and before. There is nowhere you have been that He was not already present. The question is not whether He has been with you. The question is whether you have recognized Him. Take time today to look back over your life and identify moments where, by no explanation of your own, you were protected, redirected, or preserved. That was not luck. That was grace. That was the Spirit of God, with you, long before you were with Him.

Reflection Questions:

- Can you identify moments in your past where the Holy Spirit was clearly present even before you fully surrendered to God?
- How does knowing that God has always been pursuing you change the way you view your own story?

Practical Application: Write down three moments in your life where you were protected or redirected in a way you cannot fully explain. Offer those moments back to God in prayer today as an act of gratitude.

Day 2: Born Again and Filled Within

Reading: John 20:19-23; Romans 10:9-10; Ezekiel 36:26-27

Devotional:

The moment Jesus breathed on His disciples and said "Receive the Holy Spirit" in John 20 was not a minor footnote in redemptive history. It was the fulfillment of everything the prophets had pointed toward. Ezekiel had spoken of a day when God would put His Spirit within His people — not as an occasional visitor, but as a permanent resident. Romans 10 makes the terms of entry clear. Belief in the heart. Confession with the mouth. The resurrection of Jesus as the hinge point on which everything turns. You cannot be born again without the resurrection, and you cannot be born again without the Spirit taking up residence within you. This is the miracle of salvation — not merely that your sins are forgiven, though they are, but that the very Spirit of God moves inside the temple of your body and makes His home there. The sermon described this as the transition from with you to in you. If you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, that transition has already taken place. You are not an empty vessel waiting to be filled for the first time. You are a temple. The question now is whether you are living like one.

Reflection Questions:

- Do you live with a daily awareness that the Holy Spirit dwells inside you?
- How would your choices today look different if you were fully conscious of being the temple of the living God?

Practical Application: Before any significant decision or conversation today, pause and acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit within you. Ask Him specifically for wisdom before you speak or act.

Day 3: There Is Still More

Reading: Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-21; Joel 2:28-32

Devotional:

The sermon made a point that deserves to settle deeply into your spirit: He has been with you, He came to be in you when you were born again, and then Jesus said, wait — there is more. The word "upon" in Acts 1:8 is not decorative language. It describes a distinct and additional work of the Holy Spirit that Jesus told His disciples not to move without. He called it power. He connected it directly to the call to be a witness. And when it finally arrived in Acts 2, it was not quiet, it was not subtle, and it was not limited to a select few. The fire rested on each one of them. Peter then stood up and quoted Joel — your sons and your daughters, your old men and your young men, your male servants and your female servants. The invasive nature of this outpouring was never meant to be contained to a single afternoon in a single upper room. Peter

declared plainly that the promise was for those present, for their children, and for all who are far off. That means you. The question is not whether the promise was meant for you. The question is whether you have received it.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever approached your spiritual life as though salvation was the finish line rather than the starting point?
- What has held you back from pursuing everything God has made available to you?

Practical Application: Spend at least fifteen minutes today in prayer that is focused entirely on asking God to show you what more looks like in your own walk with Him. Do not rush past this. Tarry in it.

Day 4: The Gift That Builds You Up

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:1-19; Jude 1:20-21; Romans 8:26-27

Devotional:

One of the most practical gifts the Holy Spirit makes available to the believer is the ability to pray beyond the limits of human understanding. Romans 8 describes the Spirit interceding for us with groanings that words cannot express, stepping in precisely at the point where our own language runs out. Jude calls it building yourself up in your most holy faith — praying in the Holy Spirit. Paul in 1 Corinthians 14 is not discouraging the practice. He is correcting its misapplication. He says plainly that he who prays in a tongue edifies himself, and then he says he wishes all of them would do it. The sermon described this gift as standard issue — not reserved for a spiritual elite, but made available to every believer as a means of communing with God at a level that bypasses the limitations of the natural mind. Your spirit knows things your mind has not yet processed. This gift creates a channel for that deeper communion. It is not about performance. It is not about status. It is about a God who designed you as a three-part being — spirit, soul, and body — and who wants to reach all the way into your spirit and build you from the inside out.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you allowed religious tradition or the fear of what others might think to prevent you from pursuing everything the Holy Spirit has made available?
- What would it look like for your spirit to lead your mind rather than your mind leading your spirit?

Practical Application: Read 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 slowly and prayerfully. Ask the Holy Spirit today to help you understand the difference between praying with your understanding and praying with your spirit, and invite Him to take you deeper in both.

Day 5: Power for a Purpose

Reading: Acts 4:23-31; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 10:44-48

Devotional:

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was never designed to make you feel special. It was designed to make you effective. Acts 1:8 does not say you will receive power so that you will have power. It says you will receive power and you will be my witnesses. The power is inseparable from the purpose. The sermon pointed to Peter as the most compelling evidence of this truth. This was a man who denied the Lord three times while the rooster crowed. A man who wept bitterly at his own failure. And yet, after the Spirit came upon him, while he was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on an entire household. God did not wait for a more qualified candidate. He used the broken one who had surrendered. The same pattern holds today. The world outside the doors of your church is not waiting for polished performances. It is waiting for people who carry something real — something that cannot be explained by talent or education or personality. Acts 4 shows us that even those who had already been filled came back to God in desperation and were filled again. The Spirit does not flow to the self-sufficient. He flows to the desperate. Be desperate today. The world in which you live needs what you carry.

Reflection Questions:

- Do you see the power of the Holy Spirit as something meant primarily for your personal comfort or as something meant to make you a more effective witness?
- Is there someone in your life right now who needs what you carry? What is stopping you from stepping toward them?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for that person by name every day this week, asking the Holy Spirit to open a door and to give you both the words and the courage to walk through it.

Closing Encouragement:

Many are called. The invitation is open. The promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far off. Do not let another season pass treating the fullness of the Holy Spirit as optional. The world you are walking back into when you close this guide needs every gift God has placed in you. Receive it. Walk in it. And let it overflow.