

Pentecost: The Holy Spirit

Rev. Buddy Royston

Pentecost Study Guide: The Birthday of the Church *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses...”* (Acts 1:8)

Key Scriptures

- **Acts 1:6-8** – Apostles ask about restoring Israel’s kingdom. Jesus replies: “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- **Acts 2:4** – “And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.”
- **Psalm 16:8-11** (quoted in sermon) – “I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises. My body rests in hope. For you will not leave my soul among the dead...”

Main Points

- **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Action** Pentecost marks the birth of the Church through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It unites believers and equips them to be bold witnesses.
 - We are called to **action**—not just waiting, but actively sharing Jesus through our lives.
 - Simple acts matter: smiling at people, showing kindness, taking watermelon to a neighbor, or saying “Jesus loves you.”
- **Be His Witnesses Everywhere** Jesus has a path and purpose for every believer. We are not responsible for others’ responses, but we **are** responsible for putting them in a position to think about Christ.
 - Your life is **not about you**—it’s about loving and serving others.
 - The Holy Spirit gives power, courage, and the right words at the right time.
- **Repent, Receive Forgiveness, and Live Differently** In a “crooked generation,” we must repent, turn to God, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - God’s forgiveness is powerful—even for big failures (like Peter’s denial).
 - Forgiveness frees *us* and releases God to work in others.
 - Live as light: stop complaining (“if you complain, you remain; if you grow, you go”), give generously, and reflect Jesus.
- **Hope Beyond Death** Death is real, but for believers it is not the end. Our bodies rest in hope because Christ has conquered death. We can live with joy, knowing we will see loved ones again in heaven.

Quotable Quotes from the Sermon

- “You don’t realize how important you are to God’s plan because **you are important.**”
- “Your life is **not about you.** That’s the most important thing you can ever learn. Your life is about **loving other people.**”
- “We are not responsible for their response. They are, but we are responsible for **putting them in a position to think about Jesus Christ as Lord.**”
- “**Come, Holy Spirit,** fill the hearts of the faithful. Kindle in me the fire of your love and **send me forth.**”
- “If you complain you remain; if you grow you go.”

Questions for Further Thought & Discussion

1. **Personal Witnessing:** In what everyday situations (grocery store, neighborhood, workplace) could you practice being a witness this week? What simple act of kindness or word of encouragement is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do?
2. **Repentance & Power:** Is there an area of impatience, unforgiveness, or hesitation where you need to repent and ask for fresh filling of the Holy Spirit? How does Acts 1:8 encourage you?
3. **Living as Light:** In our “crooked generation,” what does it look like practically for you to be the light of the world in your home, church, and community? How can you “give it all” to Jesus right now?

Prayer Response: Lord, fill me anew with Your Holy Spirit. Make me a bold, joyful witness who loves others well. Help me repent quickly, forgive freely, and live ready for eternity. Amen.

Study this with Acts 1–3. Share with someone this week—be the witness!