

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A Life-Group guide for sermon discussion, personal reflection, and next steps



SWAT: SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND TACTICS | POWER TO WITNESS | PASTOR DAN SMITH | AUGUST 9, 2026

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As disciples, we're called not just to be informed but to be transformed into people who look more like Jesus—in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. This guide helps you apply what we're learning at New Life Church to your weekly rhythms. Use it to engage in daily Bible reading, have meaningful conversations with your group, and take clear next steps in following Jesus.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Pastor Dan continued SWAT: Spiritual Warfare and Tactics in Acts 2 by showing Pentecost as a moment of divine power and purpose. The mighty wind, tongues of fire, and filling of every believer were not spectacle for its own sake; the Holy Spirit gives God's people power to witness. The crowd's response also carries a warning: some received what God was doing while others mocked it. Scripture says, "Do not quench the Spirit." The message identified five ways believers can quench or resist the Spirit: cynicism, offering "wrong fire" instead of worship shaped by Scripture, unforgiveness, opposing bold biblical preaching, and despising prophecy rather than testing it. Pentecost also stands in contrast to Babel: the Spirit brings people from many nations together to hear the wonders of God. The call is to welcome the Holy Spirit, honor God's holiness, forgive freely, test everything by Scripture, and let His power flow through us to witness.

POWER

Filled to witness

HOLY FIRE

Honor God as holy

UNITY

Forgive and reconcile

RESOURCES

- [Sunday's Sermon](#)
- [Table Talk Podcast](#)
- [Download the New Life Church app](#)

KEY VERSE

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

ACTS 1:8

GROUP DISCUSSION



Use these questions to examine whether you are welcoming the Holy Spirit's power or quenching what He wants to do in and through you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

POWER TO WITNESS

- Acts 2:1-4. What do the wind, fire, and filling of every believer show about the presence and power of the Holy Spirit? Where do you most need His power to move through your weakness?
- Acts 1:8. Pastor Dan connected the Spirit's power directly to witness. Who has God placed around you who needs to hear the wonders of God from your life? What would bold obedience look like this week?

RECEIVE, DON'T QUENCH

- Acts 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:19. Some people mocked what others were experiencing. Where has cynicism made you quick to ask, "What if this isn't God?" What would it look like to remain discerning while also asking, "What if it is?"
- Leviticus 10:1-4. The message warned against "wrong fire" - worship or spiritual practices not grounded in what God has commanded. How can Scripture help you distinguish between genuine spiritual expression and a counterfeit?

FORGIVENESS & UNITY

- Ephesians 4:30-32. What bitterness, anger, slander, or unforgiveness could be grieving the Holy Spirit in your life? What specific act of forgiveness or reconciliation is God asking of you?
- Acts 2:8-11. Pentecost brought many nations together to hear the wonders of God. Where could the Spirit use you to build unity rather than division in your family, church, workplace, or community?

TEST, HOLD FAST, OBEY

- Acts 7:51; 1 Thessalonians 5:20. The sermon warned against resisting bold biblical preaching and despising prophecy. When God's Word or a tested spiritual word confronts you, what tends to happen in your heart - humility, defensiveness, dismissal, or obedience?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:20. "Test everything; hold fast what is good." What biblical guardrails can help you stay open to the Holy Spirit without becoming gullible or cynical?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Ask the Holy Spirit for power to witness, then act on it. To Know God, spend ten focused minutes each day inviting Him to fill you and searching Scripture before you form an opinion about spiritual things. To Find Freedom, identify one place of cynicism, bitterness, or unforgiveness and surrender it to God. To Discover Purpose, write down one person or place where God may be sending you as a witness. To Make a Difference, share what God has done in your life, pray with someone, or take one Spirit-led step of obedience this week.

PRAYER GUIDE

Holy Spirit, fill me and give me power to witness. Guard me from cynicism, counterfeit fire, unforgiveness, resistance to Your Word, and contempt for what You may be saying. Teach me to test everything by Scripture and hold fast to what is good. Make me holy, forgiving, united with Your people, and bold in declaring the wonders of God. Jesus, be Lord of every part of my life. Amen.

CLOSING THOUGHT

"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" - Acts 2:11

Pentecost was not power for performance; it was power for witness. The Spirit who filled the believers in Acts 2 still calls God's people to receive His presence with reverence, refuse what quenches Him, and carry the good news across every barrier. Do not settle for no fire or imitate wrong fire. Ask God for holy fire that produces faithful witness, holiness, forgiveness, and unity.