

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **Make Room: Creating Space for the Spirit to Work**

Message: Part IV – **Ways We Resist the Holy Spirit**

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: March 24, 2024



Connect (30min)

1. **Easter Outlook** – How are you and your family preparing for and celebrating the Easter weekend this year?
2. **Easter at MSC**
 - a. *Good Friday*. Service Times - 9am & 10:45am. Which one are you participating in?
 - b. *Easter Sunday*. Service Times - 8:30am / 10:15am / 12pm. Which one are you participating in?
 - c. Is there anyone that you're inviting that we can pray for? Let's pray...

Message Discussion (35min)

1. Message Feedback

- a. What jumped out at you from Sunday's message? What thoughts or questions did you walk away with? How did you apply what you learned to your life this week?

2. Shawn told the story of DL Moody pointing out his experience with the filling of the Holy Spirit. Moody modelled a teachable and humble heart by inviting some ladies to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon him. When he did, the Holy Spirit filled and empowered him, and he went on to preach to over 100 million people and was a key leader in the second great awakening in America. One of the points that Shawn made using this story is that **"Every great spiritual breakthrough is on the other side of our pride."** Has this principle been true for you? How does it play into your own experience of making room for the Holy Spirit in your life? What are some different ways pride shows up in our lives and causes us to resist the work of the Holy Spirit? Discuss.

3. Read Acts 2:1-8

- a. One of the places we read the most about the Holy Spirit is in the book of Acts. We see the Spirit embolden the believers to do the work of God. Share about a time when you knew the Spirit was giving you power to do God's work.

4. One of the benefits of living our lives being filled with the Holy Spirit is that our daily tasks, activities, job, and influence don't necessarily change but the results do. How does the power of the Holy Spirit bring different results in your life? Discuss.

- a. What could look different for you if you invited the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you in your job, family, school, etc.. Discuss.

5. Have you ever caused anyone grief because you didn't respond or do what they asked? Discuss.

6. Shawn talked about how resisting the Holy Spirit comes in the form of **"grieving"** or **"quenching."** **Read Ephesians 4:30** and **1 Thessalonians 5:19**. What do you think it means to 'grieve' or 'quench' the Holy Spirit? Discuss.

7. Here is how Shawn described the difference:

- a. **Grieving the Spirit = Is when we say yes to habitual and ongoing sin and**
- b. **Quenching the Spirit = Is when we say no to God.**
- c. Shawn went on to explain a few different ways we resist the Holy Spirit by grieving and quenching His work in our life. State them and then read the passage connected with each one.

- i. Ridicule and Cynicism – **Acts 2:1-13**
- ii. Unforgiveness – **Ephesians 4:30-32**
- iii. Opposing Bold Preaching – **Acts 7:51-60**
- iv. Despising Prophecy – **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21**
- v. Have you ever heard of these? Can you think of examples in your own life where you have grieved or quenched the work of the Holy Spirit in any of these ways? Discuss.

8. When it comes to the work and power of the Holy Spirit what is your knee jerk response? Are you hesitant, critical, hopeful, fearful, willing, etc....?
- a. What would it take in your life to be more open to the person and work of the Holy Spirit? Where is He asking you to make more room for Him so that you can experience His presence and power? Share.

Challenge & Prayer (25min)

Challenge:

a. Break into groups and share one thing that you need the Holy Spirit's help with. Maybe it's fear, confusion or cynicism. Be honest about the things in your life and heart that keep you from asking for more of the Holy Spirit. Pray for one another to be filled with His power and presence.

Prayer:

a. **Prayer for this week:**

"God, help me to make room in my heart and life for all that the Holy Spirit has for me and wants to do in me."

c. **Pray for one another:**

How can we pray for you in response to the message and discussion?

d. **Pray through our 2024 Prayer Goals as a group:**

20 PRAYER GOALS 24 GOALS

- A PASSION TO PRAY.** Personally, and corporately. That we would become a church OF prayer.
- A FRESH VISITATION** of the Holy Spirit that results in a willingness to respond to all He gives us and calls us to.
- For at least 200 new people to **ATTEND** our Set Free and Empower Retreats.
- That we **MAKE ROOM** for more people to experience wholeness in Christ.