

Filled with the Holy Spirit.

So, good morning, it is good to be back in town and to get a chance to be with you. I want to take the opportunity to thank you for continuing to pray for us, Laury and I, knowing that you are praying for us...

We are involved with church transitions and new church plants, we are getting the opportunity to resurrect a new pastor family camp, that is happening in August, Laury is busy with leadership development and is speaking at a women's conference in Idaho in September on spiritual warfare.

We will be speaking at several churches on the westside in the month of August and then in Idaho in September, and doing several installation services throughout the fall, in fact, I think Laury told you about the new pastor in Ephrata, and we are looking at some changes in some of our rural churches in eastern Washington, and I want to tell you that as much as we loved pastoring this great church, we are loving this season we are in.

But here is what I want to say about all this, not just to list off a bunch of things and hope you are impressed, no, we could not do any of this if we did not have our church family praying for us, encouraging us and releasing us. When we go, you are going with us.

So please continue to pray for us, when we are not here, we are on the road and we need and cherish your prayers.

Also, a big thank you to pastors Tim and Maddie, for leading this church we love so well and continue to allow us to come share with you...

So I get to talk to you about the Holy Spirit, and specifically, how to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In a perfect world, we would all be filled with, or baptized with the Holy Spirit, the moment we got saved. At salvation, the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have the Spirit of God living in us, but the baptism of the H.S. is that releasing, if you will, that empowering and overflowing of the H.S.

It is kind of crazy to think that we could even begin to explain who the Holy spirit is or what He does; there are so many mis-conceptions about the Holy Spirit...

People know who the Father is, who the Son is but are not quite sure what to do with the Holy Spirit;

1. He is a person.

Acts 15:28, He thinks; Acts 1:16. He speaks; He leads Romans 8:14

He is described as one who “comes alongside”

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him,

for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:16-18

Think about that, the Spirit “comes alongside” when we need Him most, He comes alongside, in fact we will talk about this later that when we do not know what to pray for, when we don’t know how to pray, when we are so down we can’t pray, when we have no faith to pray, He prays for us, the Spirit Himself will lead me to pray in words I don’t even understand, because I don’t know how to pray...

Do you want to do great things for God in this next season? Then don’t criticize our pastor, pray that every day he is filled anew with an over flowing abundance of the Holy Spirit! You are not called to judge, listen to me, I am older and I get around; pray for this man...

I tell churches that have gotten new pastors, if your pastor has character, if they have integrity and they preach the Word of God without hesitation; everything else is just stylistic.

I and you, are not called to judge or make this pastor do things the way I think they should be done, we are called to pray, encourage, bless... I am going to pray that the Spirit would everyday wash over this man and his wife with wisdom, health, grace, favor and protection...

But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. Judges 6:34

b. He was involved with creation.

To many, He was created at Pentecost, He did not exist before Jesus went to the cross...

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

He brought life to you and me;

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

The word breathed in the Hebrew is the word, “Ruach” which means Spirit and get this, He is still bringing life, joy and meaning to us today!

The Holy Spirit brings life, He empowers, He makes ordinary people extraordinary!

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, ⁴ to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, ⁵ in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. Exodus 31:3-5

He takes weak and fearful people and makes something out of them;

Judges 6 talks about a man who was weak and a chicken, and when the people of God cried out for a leader, the Spirit empowered a normal person and He became a powerful **leader!** Judges 6

He caused a weak person to have supernatural **strength**; Judges 15

The Spirit gives us insight to speak of the future, He causes us to speak into people's lives, to have the wisdom and understanding to bind up the broken hearted, to have knowledge of what is really going on, to see the unseeable.

c. He was promised to us by our Father.

Our Father knew that we would need a helper, He knew that we could not do this on our own, that left our own devices we would devour ourselves and others around us, that we could never live a righteous life and would just be left pretending we were all cool.

Before Jesus, the Holy Spirit would come for various times and reasons, but He did not inhabit the people, they had to try to obey all the law, and through that proved it was impossible to live for God blamelessly...

But and I love this, God sent His son to bring us into a new covenant

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother,

saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Jeremiah 31:33-34

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them Ezekiel 36:26-27

But you have to want it, you have to want the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, living in you... think about that!

***“And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.
²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29***

We are living this right now.... Or at least can be.

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible.”

³⁸ Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:35-41

And Jesus told that the Spirit would be for us,

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

And after waiting and expecting;

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:2-4

And that same Spirit is available to you and me:

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:37-39

This building you are sitting in is heated by gas. There are four big furnaces out back that have a gas line that comes to them and when it gets cold, a little pilot flame lights that gas on fire and there is heat.

Two things;

1. No one in this room is worried, you just know that come winter you are going to walk into a warm, toasty building, because that is just the way it is. If there is a problem, you fix it, and the gas comes on and you get warm...
2. Trying to heat this building with just the little pilot light is ridiculous.

But that is exactly what we do when we as Jesus followers embrace salvation but don't allow the father to give us the Holy Spirit.

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him,

for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:16-18

Oh I wish I had another 4 hours to talk about the Holy Spirit, how good He is, how He speaks to us, give us power, gives us the ability to understand the word of God, He tells what is coming, He leads, He empowers...

But I don't have the time, so let me just ask you, do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? That is where it starts, we invite Him into our hearts, we give our lives, we give everything we are and everything we have to Him.

But don't stop there, ask for and receive the gift of the holy Spirit, Let the Spirit empower and lead you And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:16-18