

Discussion Guide

General Discussion Questions:

- What statement or illustration from the message stuck out to you and why?
- What attributes of God were on display in the passage?
- What encouraged you?
- What point of action/application did you walk away with?

Topics for Discussion:

- The Apostles
- The Holy Spirit
- Personal Growth and faithfulness
- Luke 24:48-49, Acts 1-2

Specific Discussion Questions:

? **What is the significance of the instructions Jesus gave the disciples to stay/wait?**

- **Luke 24:48–49** *48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But **stay in the city until** you are clothed with power from on high.”*
- **Acts 1:4–5** *4 And while staying with them he ordered them **not to depart** from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the promise** of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

Foundational to the commission is Jesus’ command for the apostles to “sit tight” in Jerusalem and wait an indeterminate amount of time for what Jesus called, “the promise of My Father.” Luke quotes this same phrase of Jesus’ in the parallel account of the commission at the end of his gospel (Luke 24:49). Jesus had also told them at the “Last Supper.” that the Holy Spirit (the paraklētos, “Comforter”) would be coming to empower them! (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13).¹

? **What caused the profound transformation in Peter (and the others)?**

? Discuss how the Spirit was the source and power of Jesus’ earthly ministry (cf. Matt. 4:1; 12:18; Mark 1:12; Luke 3:22; 4:1, 14, 18) and of the apostles’ service (cf. Luke 24:49; John 14:16, 17; 16:7).² **BUT the Spirit had not yet come to indwell the church. A new age was about to dawn which would be defined by a new ministry of the Holy Spirit for the enablement of ministry and the establishment of a holy lifestyle. What PRACTICAL impact does all of this have on our lives? What impact for our Church?**

? The apostles had to wait until the Day of Pentecost, but since then **all believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit at salvation** (1 Cor. 12:13; cf. Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Titus 3:5, 6).

? **Discuss the importance of not quenching the Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit is a fire dwelling in each believer. He wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes. When believers do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions or we do what we know is wrong, we suppress or quench the Spirit ([1 Thessalonians 5:19](#)). We do not allow the Spirit to reveal Himself the way that He wants to. We grieve the Spirit by living like the pagans (4:17-19), by lying (4:25), by being angry (4:26-27), by stealing (4:28), by cursing (4:29), by being bitter (4:31), by being unforgiving (4:32), and by being sexually immoral (5:3-5). To grieve the Spirit is to act out in a sinful manner, whether it is in thought only or in both thought and deed.

Both quenching and grieving the Spirit are similar in their effects. Both hinder a godly lifestyle. Both happen when a believer sins against God and follows his or her own worldly desires. The only correct road to follow is the road that leads the believer closer to God and purity, and farther away from the world and sin. Just as we do not like to be grieved, and just as we do not seek to quench what is good—so we should not grieve or quench the Holy Spirit by refusing to follow His leading.³

? **Discuss the importance of being filled with the Spirit**

Spirit filling may be described as the extensive influence and control of the Spirit in a believer’s life. It evidences an abiding state of fullness rather than the specific event. It produces a certain character of life and seems to be a close synonym to spirituality.⁴ The meaning of “filled” (Gk. plerousthe) is “control.” “The indwelling Spirit of God is the One who should continually control and dominate the life of the believer.”⁵

¹ Steven Ger, *Acts: Witnesses to the World*, Twenty-First Century Biblical Commentary Series (AMG Publishers, 2004), 21.

² John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1632.

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/grieve-quench-Holy-Spirit.html>

⁴ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 434.

⁵ Paul P. Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989), 278.