



## **Sermon Discussion Guide: join the Spirit**

**Series:** *here, there, everywhere: following the Spirit's lead*

**Date:** 05/24/2026

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version updated edition)

**1** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. **5** Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

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## **Opening Prayer**

God of wind and fire, open our hearts to Your Spirit. Give us ears to hear, courage to respond, and grace to follow where You lead. Help us become people who bear witness to the love of Jesus here, there, and everywhere. In Christ's name, Amen.

## **Introduction & Context**

On Pentecost, the followers of Jesus are gathered together when the Holy Spirit arrives with power: wind, fire, language, and a crowd full of questions. Some are amazed. Some are confused. Some dismiss the whole thing. That mixed response becomes part of the point. The Spirit brings new life, draws people together, and makes the good news understandable across boundaries. Yet not everyone receives it the same way.

This week's message highlighted Pentecost not only as a dramatic event, but as a call to join the Spirit. Jesus told the disciples to wait, and when the Spirit came, they were to become witnesses—not managers of outcomes, but channels of grace through whom the good news could be heard. Pentecost reminds us that resurrection life is still being breathed into dead places, and our role is to bear witness to the love of Jesus with humility, generosity, hospitality, and care.





## Discussion Questions

### What Do You See?

1. The sermon began by asking how different people can see the same event and come to completely different conclusions. Why do you think that happens so often in life and in faith?
2. In Acts 2, some people are amazed and curious, while others dismiss the moment entirely. Which response do you most relate to when God seems to be doing something surprising or disruptive?

### Pentecost and New Life

3. The message connected Pentecost with the Feast of First Fruits and described Jesus as the “first fruit” of resurrection. How does that image shape the way you think about Pentecost and the work of the Spirit?
4. The sermon said Pentecost becomes a recognition that God is breathing new life into dead lives. Where have you seen signs of new life, renewal, or resurrection in your own story?

### The Spirit Brings Clarity

5. Wind, fire, and many languages all mark the Spirit’s arrival. What stands out to you about the fact that people heard the good news in their own language? What does that say about God?
6. The message described Pentecost as a kind of reversal of Babel: rather than being scattered by pride, people are brought together through the Spirit. Where do you see division, confusion, or scattering in our world right now? What might it look like for the Spirit to bring understanding there?

### The Good News Is Love

7. The sermon said, “The goal, aim and purpose of that life is love.” What does that phrase stir in you? How does it challenge common assumptions about religion, spirituality, or Christian witness?



8. The message named Jesus' love as healing, feasting, sharing, caring, crying, praying, and comforting. Which of those feels most natural to you right now? Which feels most challenging?

### **Our Role Is to Witness**

9. The sermon emphasized that it is not our responsibility to control how others respond to the good news. Why is that important to remember? How might that truth change the way we think about sharing faith?

10. What is the difference between trying to manage outcomes and simply bearing witness to what Jesus has done and is doing?

### **Join the Spirit**

11. The sermon repeatedly returned to the invitation to "join the Spirit." What do you think that means in practical terms? How do you know when you are joining what God is already doing instead of just pushing your own agenda?

12. This week's next step invited us to name one here, one there, and one everywhere step for the next month. What might that look like for you right now?

### **P.A.R.**

**Pray:** For openness to the Holy Spirit and courage to join what God is already doing. Then pray, "Holy Spirit, send me."

**Act:** Make your Pentecost commitment: write down one here, one there, and one everywhere step you will practice over the next month. Choose actions that help you bear witness to the love of Jesus with humility, generosity, hospitality, and care.

**Reflect:** Where did I notice the Spirit stirring new life in me this week? How did I bear witness to the love of Jesus in what I said, did, or chose? What response did I notice in others, and how is the Spirit inviting me to keep going even when the response is mixed?



### **Closing Prayer**

Holy Spirit, breathe new life into us again. Burn away what keeps us closed off, fearful, or distracted. Gather us, send us, and help us bear witness to the love of Jesus in ways the world can hear and understand. In Christ's name, Amen.

### **Key Takeaway**

Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit brings new life, draws people together, and sends us out as witnesses. Our calling is not to control the response, but to join the Spirit and bear witness to the love of Jesus here, there, and everywhere.

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