

Harris Creek Baptist Church
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Series: Stories from Acts
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The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Well, last week was obviously Father's Day. It was a weird day for me because Father's Day has always been about my dad, but this year is for me because I have a daughter now. She just recently turned one, and she was around the last Father's Day, but I didn't really do anything to earn it last year. This year, I felt like I earned it. I put in a full year of work. I deserve to sit on the couch and watch the US Open, and that's what I did last Father's Day. Last Father's Day also brought a lot of reflection about how being a dad has changed my life. Since our daughter Jaycee has come into our life, we're thinking about how our life has changed since Jaycee has come into our family. One of the ways that she's changed our family is that last weekend on Saturday, my wife went with a friend to Austin. Typically, what that would mean when my wife is out of town, I'm golfing on the golf course. But now with Jaycee, I'm not on the golf course. We're at Magnolia together, just walking around, wandering for something to do. This is us outside of Magnolia Home. We were there before it even was open. I was just a helpless dad looking for some entertainment. That's what my life looks like with her now.

There's a couple of different ways that she's changed her life as well. Before Jaycee, I used to enjoy reading books like *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Now I enjoy reading *Little Blue Truck's Christmas* over and over and over again. Yes, I know it's June, but she likes it, so we read it.

A few other ways our life has changed is that typically, before Jaycee, the cost of the date would actually just be what was on the check at dinner. Now the cost of the date is half that because I'm going to pay that, and then I'm going to go home and Venmo the babysitter. A couple of other ways our life has changed. Before Jaycee, nap time for me was just whenever I wanted to take a nap, I would take a nap. Now our whole life revolves around her nap schedule. Before Jaycee, whenever we would be on a flight, I could sit back, relax, watch a movie, and now I am spending the entire flight making sure she's not pulling on the hair of the person sitting in front of us.

You see, our life has changed since Jaycee has come into the equation because when you're with someone every single day of your life, they inevitably change your life. When someone is added

to your life, they change your life. So, Jaycee has changed a lot about our family. She's changed the way we spend our time, the way we spend our money. She has certainly changed the amount of time in which we sleep. She has changed a lot about our life since she has come into our life. The problem is there are a lot of people here today who have someone in their life who is with them every single day and He is not changing your life. It is not because He does not want to. It is because you do not recognize Him. You are not thinking about Him. You have neglected Him. You have pushed Him off to the side.

He is with you every single day, and He's not changing the way you spend your money, the way you spend your time, the way you think, the way you act, the way you talk, because you are not even thinking about Him. Although He's with you every single day, you are not allowing Him to change your life, and it is because you do not really know what to do with Him.

So today we're going to talk about him. We're going to talk about who he is and what he does. We're going to talk about the Holy Spirit. As we start a brand-new sermon series on the book of Acts, we are going to talk about the Holy Spirit. I know for a lot of us Baptists, the Holy Spirit just weirds us out. We do not really know what to do with him.

I tell you what? I'm largely in that camp. There have been seasons in my life where I've just been weirded out by the Holy Spirit. I've stiff armed the Holy Spirit because I've just seen people use the Holy Spirit, in my view, incorrectly. I've been prophesied over before things that just were not even true. People have said, "Man, this is from the Holy Spirit to your life," and I'm like, "Man, that is just not true at all." That just makes me uneasy, and I want to move away from that.

I typically feel more comfortable with the Trinity of the Texas Baptist, the Father, Son, and Holy Bible. That's what I can be used to. I feel comfortable there. I feel safe there. But the Holy Bible has something to say about the Holy Spirit. In fact, there's a warning. There is a command in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 that says this, "**Do not quench the Spirit.**"

It's almost like he knew what we would fall into. That word for quench elsewhere in the scriptures is used to describe putting out a fire. He's saying don't put out the fire of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit wants to be a flame in your life, but you will put him out if you neglect him or if you don't understand him.

Because if I were to ask you today, even for those of you who have been in church for years and years and years, maybe even your whole life, if I were to ask you what does the Holy Spirit

actually do? What would you even say? I think for many of us, we simply wouldn't really know. Just that simple question, what does the Holy Spirit do? Many of us would not even know how to answer that.

But today I'm going to give you three things that the Holy Spirit does. For the rest of your life, you're going to be able to walk out of here today and know at least three things that the Holy Spirit does. So, I think this sermon is going to be helpful to you. This was helpful to me in writing it. If you are a note taker, this is going to be the type of message that I think is going to correlate well with you. We are going to walk out with three things that the Holy Spirit does in your life today.

And as we said, we are starting off a brand-new sermon series called Stories from Acts, looking at the book of Acts. And just to set up what this book is, it comes right after the Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John were all written about Jesus's life, and then right after that is the book of Acts, which displays the start and the growth of the early church. We want to preach through this book so we can understand what the early church was like, so that we can better become more and more like the early church. We want to see the Spirit move in this place like it did back then.

We're not going to preach verse by verse. We're going to preach for the next few weeks, looking at some of the most important stories in the book of Acts so we can get our arms around this book. But if you want to go verse by verse through the book of Acts, we've actually done that before through the Bible reading plan. So, this week you could start in that. Chapter-by-chapter comments are written by our church on the Bible Reading Plan. So, you go there biblereadingplan.org and follow along there.

But more background on the book of Acts? As JP said, it was written by Luke, and Luke was a physician who also wrote the Gospel of Luke. And back in my seminary days, we actually would call those two books the same thing. We'd call them Luke-Acts. Luke-Acts, because they're one author telling the same story. In fact, this is how Luke opens up Acts in Acts 1. He says this, **"In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven."**

So, in order to understand the book of Acts, we got to understand how this starts. We need to understand why Luke is writing this book. He says something shocking there that should have stood out to you. He says, **"In my former book, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and**

teach," which is confusing. Because in his former book, he talks about Jesus's birth, life, death, resurrection, and then eventually, he talks about his ascension and then Jesus is gone. His ministry is over. And yet he opens up Acts by saying, **"I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach,"**.

Because even though Jesus is now physically not here, he has sent his Holy Spirit to continue on the mission. Jesus's life was simply the beginning of what He wanted to do in the world, and we are going to see what He does through the Holy Spirit here in Acts 2. We are going to look at the story of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was sent to rest in us. Pentecost typically gets overlooked because we really like to talk about Christmas in the church. Christmas is a big deal in the church, the day that God became a man to live with us. But Pentecost is just as important because now not only is God with us through the presence of Jesus, but He's in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This is a big, big deal and we need to understand what's going on here.

There are three things you need to understand about Pentecost before we read it. The first is that Pentecost happens 50 days after Passover. In fact, these were things that were in the Jewish calendar year after year, after year, after year. Passover would happen, and then 50 days later would be Pentecost, which Pentecost actually just means 50 days.

On this year, if you know this, that Passover was the day in which Jesus was crucified and killed. Every single year during Passover, the Jewish people would remember the day in which the first born of all the Egyptians were killed so that the Israelites could go free. On this Passover, the first born sent from heaven was killed so that we could go free. Then 50 days later, Pentecost comes, and the Holy Spirit comes down.

Two other things to note about Pentecost. One is that it was a feast. It was a feast in celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was a celebration that God had provided for His people. But then, secondly, it was also a feast in celebration and remembrance of the coming of the law. The Jewish people believed that it was at Pentecost at this day when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the law, with the Ten Commandments.

So, every single year in the Jewish calendar, Pentecost would come around 50 days after Passover and the Jewish people would celebrate two things. They would celebrate the law and a harvest. What is going to happen here today is that is going to change. Because for the rest of the

rest of the rest, Pentecost would now not be remembered for law and harvest, but grace and harvest. Not a harvest of wheat, but a harvest of people brought into God's kingdom.

So, we are going to start reading in Acts 2:1. Just as a reminder, Jesus has ascended into heaven. He said to his disciples, he said, **"Hey, stay together, stick together, because my Holy Spirit is going to come in power on you."** So, they wait together for 10 days and then we see this in Acts 2:1. **"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like a blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were staying."**

I think it's helpful to know that across Scripture, the word for wind and spirit is almost interchangeable. The Hebrew word is ruach, which means wind or spirit. That's because that describes how the Spirit acts. Sometimes you'll feel Him like a gentle breeze, sometimes He shows up like a violent wind.

Verse 3, **"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now they were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven."** This is because three times every single year that every able-bodied Jewish person was required to go to Jerusalem for feast. There are three different feasts, Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Booths and that's why at every single Pentecost there were so many people in that place.

Verse 6, **"When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment because each one had heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked, 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?'"** Then he describes 15 different people groups who were there that day.

Skipping ahead, verse 11, it said, **"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues. Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'"**

So, people have come from all over the globe, they have come from all over the place, and they all speak different languages. Then what happens is there is this violent rushing wind. So, the people rush over to see what has taken place and these Galileans walk out from this place and it

is like they have been practicing on Rosetta Stone or Duolingo. They are able to speak different languages and it does not make sense to the people.

These are uneducated Galileans. How are they able to speak all these different languages? So, they ask a simple question what does this mean? What does this mean that we would come from all over the globe to this place, we would hear this rushing wind, and then these simple men would begin to speak in our language? What does this mean?

I can tell you what this means. It means that God really loves us, and he wants us to know about it. Every tribe, nation, and tongue, every man, woman, and child, boy and girl, young and old. God is committed to getting His message to every corner of the globe that Jesus loves sinners. This is what this means. It is the first thing we can understand from this passage. This is what the Holy Spirit does.

1. The Holy Spirit gives clarity so that people might know God.

This is the miracle that takes place here. It's one of clarity. Because we can get so caught up in the tongues and the fire, which are interesting, and we could preach full sermons on it. There are full books written about it. There's a lot to be talked about and discussed there. It's an important thing, but it's ultimately not the ultimate thing because the signs and the wonders were not the point of the story. They were simply a means to an end because the goal here was not the signs and the wonders. The goal here was that the signs and the wonders would point clearly to the good news of the gospel.

This is what takes place here in this story. This is the miracle that the Holy Spirit comes and allows the disciples to speak clearly and allows the people there that day to understand clearly the good news of the truth. What the Holy Spirit is doing here is he's bringing clarity to chaos because Pentecost would have been absolute chaos. Thousands of people from many different countries would descend onto one city, all speaking different languages. That's chaos. The Holy Spirit comes, and he brings clarity.

I love this story because it's a direct correlation to Genesis 11. When I say Genesis 11, you probably don't know what happens there, but you probably know the Tower of Babel story. That's what happens in Genesis 11. If you don't know the Tower of Babel, what that story is, is that everyone on earth spoke the same language. So, they got together, and they said, "Let's do something great. Let's do something that would make our name great."

So, they decided that they were going to build a city and they were going to build a tower that would stretch up to heaven. What they really wanted to do is they wanted to do something that would prove to them that they do not need God. They have got each other. So that is all they really needed to do. God saw their pride and He desired to stop their pride. So, He scrambled them up into different languages. We read this in Genesis 11:9. It said, "**That is why it was called Babel - because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there, the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.**" So as a result of their sin, God confuses them and scatters them.

You see, Pentecost is the great reversal of Babel, because while in Genesis 11, their sin brought confusion and scattering, in Acts 2, the Spirit brought clarity and unity. He's undoing what we've done. In the middle of chaos, while our sin brought chaos, the Spirit has come and brought clarity, and specifically, he's bringing clarity to the truth because this is who he is. This is what he does.

In fact, this is what Jesus promised he would do. Speaking about the Holy Spirit, Jesus said this in John 14:26. He said, "**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said.**"

In other words, what he's saying is one of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit is that he would provide clarity to my message. This is what the Spirit does at Pentecost. He comes and allows the disciples to clearly communicate the truth to other people who otherwise would not understand. This is what he did 2,000 years ago, but this is still what he wants to do today.

There's a couple of different ways that we could apply this to our life today. First, I hope that for the rest of your life, every single time you open up the Word of God, you ask the Holy Spirit to allow you to see things clearly. It is a simple thing that is really a game changer. Before you get in the Word, just pray, and ask for the Holy Spirit. Just say, "God, would your Holy Spirit allow me to read this clearly and understand this clearly?"

Ask him to do it. He desires to do it. In fact, I don't even think we totally realize what's happening when we read Scripture when we have the Holy Spirit, but I think it's something like whenever you put on readers, if you don't see very well. That's what's happening. When we have the Holy Spirit, we're able to see the Scripture clearly, and since we have him, we can see things clearly.

This is why for those people who do not have the Spirit, they do not understand the Word of God. The Word of God says that the gospel to the world is foolishness, but to us, it is salvation. It's because to us, the Holy Spirit has made things clear.

In fact, this week I had to remind myself of this because just on social media, I had some friends post some things that I just honestly could not disagree with more. They posted things and I was like, man, I stand actually on the exact opposite side of things. I would just get frustrated with them. But I had to remind myself they do not have the Holy Spirit. Of course, they do not see the truth of God's Word clearly. Of course, they do not believe what the Word of God says because they do not have the Holy Spirit to make things clear to them.

Here's another way I think the Holy Spirit can make things clear to you through means of discernment. This week, one of my friends was going into a conflict resolution meeting, where deceit had potentially taken place. Before that meeting, we just spent some time together. We just asked the Holy Spirit to provide extreme supernatural clarity to discern what was actually true and what was actually going on. I think the Holy Spirit wants to do that.

I think the Holy Spirit also wants to provide clarity in terms of making decisions. My hope is that you bring the Holy Spirit into nearly every decision that you make, whether it's buying a house or what to have for lunch. I know that seems extreme, and sometimes you won't hear anything from the Holy Spirit, but at the very least, you could invite him in, because I think we just get used to making decisions on our own. But we need to invite him in and ask him to provide clarity. Sometimes he'll show up in the form of a gentle breeze. Sometimes it'll be a violent wind. But for those decisions, he wants to help provide clarity, and especially for those big decisions.

One of the ways I've seen him provide clarity in my life is through our life group. Whenever we're making a decision, we want to bring in the council of many because that helps bring clarity. The Holy Spirit speaks through his people to provide clarity because this is what he does. Point number 1, the Holy Spirit gives clarity so that people might know God.

So that's one thing that the Holy Spirit does in this passage. In order to understand the next thing that the Holy Spirit does, I actually need to take you back 51 days before Pentecost. Because as I said, 50 days before Pentecost was the Passover, where Jesus was crucified and killed. But 51 days, the night before, was when Jesus was arrested and put on trial to be sentenced to death and Jesus was mocked and beaten and abused.

We read in that story, in Matthew 26, that Peter, one of Jesus's disciples, had followed him and was watching this from a distance. As Peter was watching Jesus be abused from a distance, we read that a young female slave comes up to Peter and says, "Don't you know Jesus? I think I saw you with Jesus. Don't you know him?" Peter says, "No, I don't know the man," and he walked away.

Then another female servant approaches Peter and says, "No, I know I saw you with him. Don't you know Jesus?" Then Peter says, "No, I'm telling you, I don't know the man." Then he walks away, and a larger group of people come up and talk to Peter and say, "No, your accent is giving you away. You are a Galilean. We know you know Jesus." Then Peter gets upset. He begins bringing down curses and yelling and saying, "No, I'm telling you, I don't know Jesus."

Fifty-one days later, the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven like a violent wind and people begin to speak in different tongues and the crowd of people had gathered around these Galileans. Then one of the disciples stands up and begins to speak the very first sermon that would ever be given in the church. This disciple was Peter.

He has a fascinating shift. Fifty-one days before, he could not even acknowledge Jesus to the lowest member of society, the person with the least amount of authority. And now he is able to get up in front of thousands of people and preach a sermon. It is one of the most amazing passages of text in all of scriptures. I wish we could read the whole thing. It is just simply too long. So, I am going to read different selections of it so you can understand what he says on that day.

I'm going to start by reading in verse 22. As I'm reading this, remember who Peter was just 51 days before. This is what he says to the crowd. **"Fellow Israelites, listen to this. Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge, and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."**

Then he quotes Psalm 16. I am going to skip ahead one verse, verse 29, **"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would**

place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, they spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he is received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool at your feet.'" Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this. God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

A few days earlier, Peter could not even acknowledge that he knew Jesus to a servant girl, the person with the least amount of authority in society. A few days later, Peter is getting up in front of an entire crowd, thousands of people, and puts his finger in their chest and said, "**This Jesus whom you crucified is both Lord and Messiah.**" What's the difference? What happens in those 51 days? Does he take a public speaking class? What changes with Peter?

The Holy Spirit has come on him and has given him courage. Which is the second thing we can learn from this passage.

2. The Holy Spirit gives courage so that people might know God.

Because, you see, at Jesus's trial, Peter was overwhelmed with the fear of man. He was afraid of what people might think of him and he was afraid of what those people might do to him. Because if they found out that he knew Jesus, they might kill him like they killed Jesus, which they eventually would. There was a real cost to this. He was so afraid of what they might think and what they might do. But as soon as he receives the Spirit, it is like he has been set free from his fear of man. It is like he has been set free of fear of his own safety, and it is because this is what the Holy Spirit does.

We do not just see this in Acts 2, we see this in 2 Corinthians 3:17. It says this, "**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**" Because, you see, the Holy Spirit sets us free from our fear of man, and because he sets us free from that, he gives us the courage to say the hard thing and to do the hard thing. But not so that people could look at us and say, "Man, how courageous is he? How courageous is Peter?" Because the reason the Holy Spirit gave Peter courage on that day was so that he could tell the crowd that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. That Jesus came to love and serve the world, only for the world to eventually

put him to death. Only for death to realize that it has no hold on Jesus. This was the purpose of his courage. It was so that people could come to know who God is.

That's what the Holy Spirit did back then, 2,000 years ago. It is what the Holy Spirit wants to do today, and we need him to do it today. Because we do not live in a courageous society. We live in a comfortable society. We are in desperate need of courage because, man, even for a lot of us here, we do not really know what it means to live with courage. For a lot of us, just thinking about life group, that is maybe one of the most courageous things you have done in your faith, is showing up to life group and confessing sin, which, man, that absolutely takes courage. But think about what the disciples went through. Think about what they needed courage for.

We need to learn to do courageous things and we don't need to figure it out on our own. The Holy Spirit wants to make us courageous. It can look like a few different things. It can look like evangelism, like we see here in this story. If you're not prone to evangelism, if you're afraid of sharing the good news about Jesus, man, take heart, take hope. The Holy Spirit changed Peter. He can change you to give you the courage to say what you know you need to say.

But it can also look like a few other things. Just in light of our last sermon series, the Holy Spirit can give you courage to say, **As for me, in my house, we are going to serve the Lord.** We are not going to do what our neighbors do. My son is not going to do what his friends do. My daughter is not going to do what her friends do. As for me and my house, we are going to do things differently. We're going to be an uncommon family." Man, that takes courage.

Another way the Holy Spirit can promote courage is, man, through every single Monday night here at Harris Creek, it's some of the most courageous people in our church. They show up and meet people who they do not know, and they confess sin that they thought they would take to their grave. It is because the Holy Spirit is giving them courage to do so.

In Re:gen, people there also do something crazy. A lot of times, they will go and ask for forgiveness for something they have done years ago. Sometimes they hop on a plane, sometimes they drive in a car, and they ask for forgiveness for something they never, ever thought they would do. It is a relationship that has been damaged, bruised, and beaten and it is too far gone, and the Holy Spirit does something crazy. He reconciles relationships through the courage of asking for forgiveness.

Maybe that's what the Holy Spirit needs to do in your life today, but I'm confident that he wants to provide courage because this is what the Holy Spirit does. Point number 2, the Holy Spirit gives courage so that people might know God.

So, we have seen two things in this passage. The Holy Spirit gives clarity, and he gives courage. He does one other thing, and it happens next in verse 37. Right after Peter is done preaching, the people respond this way. They say this in verse 37. "**When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'**" See, this is what the Holy Spirit does. Because you hear the Word of God and what the Holy Spirit will do is he will convict you of your sin and it promotes this response.

Because when you hear who Jesus is and you realize who you are, the Holy Spirit will convict you of your sin and it will promote this response. It's a response of, what shall I do? I know I'm in the wrong. I know I failed. How do I need to change? You see, this is what the Holy Spirit does. He brings conviction, which is the third thing we can learn.

3. The Holy Spirit gives conviction so that people might know God.

Conviction is such a churchy word. We're used to it in the south and in Texas, but a lot of us don't really know what it means. But conviction means a formal declaration of guilt. So, here is what this looks like. You will sin and you will watch that show you know you should not watch; you will say that thing you should not say, you will do that thing you know you should not do. The Holy Spirit will prompt you, whether it is just on his own or whether it is through a sermon or whether it is through the Word of God, and he will convict you of that sin.

What that means is he's reminding you of your guilt. Not to shame you, but he's convicting you and reminding you of your guilt so that you might be pushed to the cross and realize that through the blood of Jesus, you actually stand innocent. This is what the Holy Spirit does. He convicts you of your guilt to remind you that you're innocent. This is what Jesus actually says the Holy Spirit will do. He does not just do this 2,000 years ago; he wants to do this today.

Jesus said this in John 16:8, and I'm actually going to read from the ESV because I think it says it a little bit more clearly here. It says this, "**And when he comes, the Holy Spirit, he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.**" If you are a believer in Jesus, man, I know you have had this happen to you before. You sin and you are convicted. But

the Holy Spirit does not do that to shame you, but to remind you that you should run from that sin and instead repent and run towards the life that is truly life.

This is what we see happening in this passage. The Holy Spirit convicts the crowd so they might run to Jesus. This is what we see happen next in this passage. After they say, "What shall we do," Peter replied, verse 38, **"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call. With many other words, he warned them and pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' Those who accepted his message were baptized and about 3,000 were added to their number that day."**

Three thousand people came to know Jesus because the Holy Spirit convicted them of sin and brought them to repentance. Three thousand people found life that day.

As I said before, Pentecost was a day in the Jewish culture where they would celebrate and remember the coming of the law. With that in mind, man, this makes Acts 2 all the more enthralling because at Pentecost, they would remember the day in which Moses would come down from Mount Sinai with the law. If you actually know what takes place here, it's fascinating what the Holy Spirit does. Because you read that story in Exodus 32, and what happens is Moses is up on Mount Sinai for far too long. So, the Israelites just move on from God. They create a golden calf, and they worship that image as God. What happens as a result of that sin, on that day the law came was that 3,000 people died.

See, the law came and brought death to 3,000 people. This is what they are remembering every single Pentecost, and on this Pentecost, they were remembering that day the law came and 3,000 people died. But on this Pentecost, grace comes and 3,000 people find life. See, this is what the Holy Spirit does. He undoes what we have done. He makes all things right. He is continuing on the mission of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is undoing what we have done.

So, what does the Holy Spirit do? Well, he exists to help people know Jesus, and he does that through providing clarity, courage, and conviction. So, for the rest of your life, you know what the Holy Spirit does? He does more than this. But for the rest of your life, you know that the Holy Spirit provides clarity, courage, and conviction.

To close, just a throwback to the beginning story. My daughter recently turned one and talking about all the ways that she is changed our life. But what if you had come up to me last Father's Day, or even today, and said, "Nate, how has Jaycee, your daughter, changed your life?" What if my answer was, "Not a whole lot. I still golf just as much; I still sleep just as much. I still spend as much money on myself as I want. I still have as much free time as I had before. Honestly, she came into our life and hasn't really changed much of anything." If that were my response, you could gather a few things from them. You could gather that I am just not a very good dad, that I am not attentive to my daughter, that I do not really care about my daughter, that I am not really concerned about my daughter. You could gather that I am missing out on the joy of being a dad.

If my question to you today was how has the Holy Spirit changed your life this last year? How has he changed the way you spend your time, the way you spend your money, the way you think, the way you act, the way you speak? How has he changed your life this last year? If your answer is, man, not much. I haven't really thought about him. I don't really know what he does. I've neglected him. He hasn't really changed my life. I think we can come to a conclusion that you're missing out on the full joy of following Jesus. Because the Holy Spirit wants to do today what he did 2,000 years ago at Pentecost. He wants to give clarity to your mind. He wants to give courage to your bones. He wants to give conviction to your soul.

The problem is for so many of us in this church culture, whenever we ask the question of how has Jesus changed your life, tell me the testimony of how God has worked in your life. Too often, the story ends with, and then I accepted Jesus into my heart 20 years ago at a church camp. Praise God that Jesus worked in your life 20 years ago, but he wants to work in your life today through the power of the Holy Spirit.

There's a reminder in Scripture that I think is so relevant to us today as Texas Baptist. We need to remember what 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, "**Do not quench the Spirit.**" He wants to be a flame in your life. He wants to give you clarity, courage, and conviction. The question is, are you looking for Him? Are you asking him to do these things? Because he wants to! He wants to work in your life. My hope and my prayer is that we would not neglect him. We would not stiff arm him. We would not put him off into the corner. But instead, we would allow him to do what he does best, and that is change lives and bring life to dead situations.

So even if you've been following Jesus for years and years and years and haven't felt the power of the Holy Spirit in your life, I believe that you can start today. My hope is that every single day this week that you ask God to open up your eyes, that you might see Him. Because I've learned,

and this isn't Scripture, this is just my observation, but the people who experience the Holy Spirit the most are the people who are looking for him the most. So, my hope and my prayer is that that would be true of us. As Harris Creek, we live eyes wide open, looking to see what the Holy Spirit might do in our midst. Let me pray that it would be true of us today.

Father, you're so good to us. You're so kind to us. You don't leave us alone. But you are God, not just with us, but in us. You sent your Holy Spirit to change our life every single day, that you desire to bring clarity, courage, and conviction to us. Father, I pray that we'd allow you to do that, that we wouldn't get in the way, that we wouldn't push aside your Holy Spirit, that we wouldn't quench your Spirit, but we would allow him to do whatever it is he wants to do. God, I even pray that you just change the way we think about him, that the Holy Spirit wouldn't be something, but someone. That he's alive and active and moving and speaking. I pray that we create space to hear from him. That we would feel the promptings of him, whether it's a gentle breeze or a violent wind. Father, I just pray you unleash the Holy Spirit in our life, that we begin to do different things, say different things, and be different people, not because of behavior modification, but because of life change. So, Father, thank you for the story of Pentecost. I pray that today's church would look more and more like the early church, that we could help everyone follow Jesus through the work of your Holy Spirit, in and through us. Father, we just want to worship you because you're a good God, who is alive and with us and for us. And it is in your Son's name, we pray. Amen.