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Series: People In Step With The Spirit
Message: What Happened at Pentecost?

Transcribed Message
September 30, 2018
Acts 1:8

A children's catechism class was learning together the Apostle's Creed and what the teacher had done was to assign each child a statement that they would repeat back. It was time for the children to participate and the teacher asked the first child to say their part. The first child said, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth." Then it was time for the second child. The second child said, "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son." Then there was silence. There was more silence. Finally, a third little voice spoke up and said, "Teacher, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit isn't here today." I thought that was kind of funny. It would probably be less funny if it were not true that at times it seems like too many Christians live as if they're not sure there is a Holy Spirit whom God has sent to live within us.

Well, we at Covenant do believe in One called the Holy Spirit of God. We do believe that it is God's will and His calling for us to walk in step with that Spirit. We are going through a series by that very name – People in Step With the Spirit. We want to be people who are walking in step with the Holy Spirit. So this morning we want to look at what happened at Pentecost. The answer to that question is the sentence that Pentecost changed everything. The Spirit was given. The church was born, and we as a result of that are blessed beyond measure.

So a quick review of what we have seen to this point. We have said that the Holy Spirit is a person. Because the Holy Spirit is a person, that means we can and do have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. We said the Holy Spirit is God. As a result of that declaration, we acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is absolutely equal with the Father and with the Son. We said thirdly that the Holy Spirit gave us the Word. The Holy Spirit is the one according to Peter who is the author of Scripture, having guided men of God along and giving us His Word. Everything that we know by means of divine revelation has come to us by the Holy Spirit of God. We looked last week at the fact that

the Holy Spirit filled and empowered Jesus every day of His earthly life. Stop and think about that for a moment. That's not only humbling but it's encouraging. The Son of God Himself in His humanity depended and relied upon the Holy Spirit every moment of every day. If that were in fact true as the Scriptures tell us that it is, then it certainly speaks of our obligation and opportunity to do the same.

This morning, we're going to talk about something old and something new. How did believers in the Old Testament experience the Holy Spirit before Pentecost? What do the Scriptures tell us about that work under the old covenant? We're really talking about Old Testament believers, Old Testament saints all the way to the point of the cross. Even in the Gospels they were living under the old covenant. The new covenant begins at the cross. What was the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in that particular timeframe? If you want in one sentence to get an understanding of what that ministry looked like, I would say this way. It was similar in essence but it was different in degree. It was similar in essence but different in degree.

You remember last week where we talked about the Father's primary place of ministry or prominence is from creation to the incarnation. The Son is from the incarnation to ascension. The Holy Spirit is from the ascension to the second coming. As we look at that, we acknowledge that those are kind of the points of emphasis that the Scriptures give us with regard to the work of the Trinity. What we don't want to conclude from that as we look at that is that none of the members of the Godhead were involved or acted in any of those points other than the one that they were prominent in. For we know that for instance in the Old Testament Jesus appeared in a theophany numbers of times as the angel of the Lord. We know obviously that the Father is engaged in the life of our Lord and in the activities today in His divine providence, overseeing sovereignly the details of life. So all of them are engaged in all of these periods. It's just that there is a prominence that the Scriptures give to each one of them.

As you look at this you say Pentecost changed everything. Yes, that's true but the Holy Spirit's ministry was certainly active in the Old Testament as well. We've already talked a little bit in the beginning about the fact that the Spirit of God was involved in creation, in preservation of what He had made. We know that the Holy Spirit was involved in salvation in the lives of Old Testament saints. Nobody comes to a point

of belief in God, nobody comes to a point of belief in Christ without the work of the Holy Spirit in their life. We know that because when Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, it was still the old covenant that was in place. What did Jesus say to Nicodemus? Nicodemus, unless you are born of the water and the Spirit you cannot be born again. Jesus acknowledged that the Spirit of God is always at work whether in the old covenant or the new. We know that the Holy Spirit was involved in prophetic messages and miracles.

All of these things are taking place but here's the distinction. Jesus gives us a key insight when in John 14:17 He says to His disciples, right now the Holy Spirit is with you but there is coming a time in the future, Jesus says, when He will be in you. That is a key distinction. That's why we say the work of the Holy Spirit under the old covenant is similar in essence but it is different in degree. What the Holy Spirit will do once Pentecost comes is going to be markedly and significantly different in so many respects.

So what did this look like in the Old Testament? How would we characterize the work of the Spirit in the lives of God's people in the Old Testament? Well, we know that it was primarily in dealing with the nation of Israel. God's covenant people is where the Spirit's work is emphasized in Scripture. We would note two things. It looks like this. It was selective in terms of the things that God's Spirit was doing. It was selective. There were certain people in the Old Testament who were indwelt by the Spirit. For instance, we read that about Joseph and that Potiphar recognized that the Spirit of God was on this man's life. We know that it was said of Joshua that the Spirit was on him. Daniel. We read the Spirit was on him. So we have a few instances selectively where the Scriptures tell us that the Spirit of God indwelt Old Testament saints.

We also have expressions like this. The Spirit of God came upon someone. Numerous times in the Old Testament we read that. Furthermore, we read that there were those who were filled with the Spirit in the Old Testament under the old covenant. Bezaleel. Remember when the time came for the building of the Tabernacle and it was going to require great craftsmanship and intricate design and detail? Certainly Bezaleel by his own right was a gifted craftsman, but when the Holy Spirit came upon him and filled him, it enabled him to do extraordinary work beyond what he was able to do in his own human giftedness. So you look at that and you have that snapshot of the Old

Testament under the old covenant where the Spirit of God is at work selectively in the lives of certain people.

The other thing that you can say about this time is that it was limited. It was limited. There's two things about this limitation. It was limited first of all in terms of its extent. It was limited in terms of its extent. Every Old Testament believer did not experience the Holy Spirit in the ways that I just mentioned these others had. It was not universal. That's going to change at Pentecost but we're going to get ahead of ourselves if we go there at this point. It was also a matter of limited in terms of its duration. In terms of its duration. For instance, we read of the man Samson. We read that the Holy Spirit came upon Samson. But as his life played out, we know he made a lot of bad choices and we read that the Spirit of God left Samson. Kind of a sobering sad account in Scripture. The same thing happened to Saul, the first king of Israel. The Spirit of God came upon Saul and God used him for a period of time in his life when he was walking in obedience to God and in a significant way. But then we read when Saul decided that he could do things his own way and we read that the Spirit of God left Saul. That was God making a significant pronouncement about the removal of His blessing on the life of Saul. Even David, a man after God's own heart. Even David when he fell into sin and when he confessed his sin before God in Psalm 51. What did David pray? He prayed God, please do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. You do not ever find that prayer in the New Testament. We're going to see why as we go on in our study of the Holy Spirit even yet today. But David under the old covenant is an Old Testament saint and saw what happened to Saul. He saw the blessing of God removed from the life of Saul. He knew exactly what happened to Saul when the Spirit left him. We recounted the same thing happened to Samson.

So you look at the Old Testament believers before Pentecost and God was indeed doing a work in the lives of His people. He was, in addition to everything else that we said, was restraining sin. He was pouring out the common grace of God on people and on nations but there was not universal indwelling of believers. There was not permanent indwelling of believers. Those things were going to come as a result of Pentecost. Think about that for a minute. think about the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament in the lives of God's people. Think about some of the lives that are

recorded for us in the pages of the Old Testament. Think of some of the things that they did in these exploits for God as they walked with Him as best they knew how. They did not have what you and I have. They did not have the permanent indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. They certainly did not have God's completed revelation. I don't know about you but when you think in terms of what God has given to us and when I said at the beginning that Pentecost changed everything, that the Spirit came, the church is born and we're blessed beyond measure, it really is true. We have the completed revelation of Scripture. We have the promise of God's indwelling Holy Spirit forever. Old Testament saints saw that on a much more limited selective basis.

Before we go to Pentecost, we need to stop one more place. Turn to John chapter 20 if you would. There's an incident that happens in the Gospel of John that unfolds before we get to Pentecost. It's kind of an interesting little story that happens between Jesus and the disciples. In John 20 and in verse 19, I want you to see a unique case where something happens before Pentecost that we probably should explain as best we can. Let's read beginning at verse 19: "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'" What's happening in this passage? We know it's the day of resurrection. This is the Sunday of resurrection. This is the first day of the week. This is the disciples still fearful and gathered together and Jesus makes this first appearance to what at this point is the 10. Judas is gone. Thomas isn't there. So they're 10. The disciples are there and Jesus appears to them in this place, in the midst of their anxiety. Something interesting happens as we've just read. This isn't Pentecost but it seems as if the Holy Spirit is being given to them. I want to explain that as best I can.

I don't think first of all what's happening here as has been explained by some is the point at which the disciples are saved. Some people look at this and say this is the

place where finally they believe. The disciples are saved and they get the Holy Spirit. I don't think that's the case because we already know from the Upper Room Discourse that in John 13 Jesus said you are clean, yet not all of you, speaking of Judas. So He already told the disciples that they didn't need a bath. They just needed their feet washed because they were already clean, an indication that they had believed. He says in Luke chapter 10 you should rejoice that your name is written in heaven. He said that to the disciples. They had believed. They had come to understand Jesus as the Messiah and had put their trust in Him. I don't think this is the point of their salvation. Some people look at this and say well maybe this is a pre-Pentecost giving of the spirit. At first blush it looks that way as you read those verses. Another possibility that is offered is that this is the official commissioning and they're now being officially commissioned and they receive the Spirit and are sent out.

Here is why I don't think any of those things are what happened. In John chapter 7 and verse 37 listen to what Jesus says: "On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" What an incredible promise and statement Jesus makes there! This is the point. "Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive (so it is yet future), for as yet the Spirit had not been given because Jesus was not yet glorified." Jesus tells us plainly in John 7 the Holy Spirit is not going to be given until He is glorified. In John 20 He has not yet been glorified. He has been raised again but He has not yet been glorified. So that can't be that at this point the Spirit is being given because the Ascension hasn't taken place yet.

So what's happening in John 20? Bible teachers suggest this and I kind of go along with this as the likely answer. This is Jesus in an acted out prophecy. Jesus is making this statement but He is in effect preparing them for what He has told them is yet to come. What is coming yet of course is Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit. This is a sign of what is to come. It's not yet the reality but is that Jesus is kind of acting out of prophecy by means of the spoken promise of what is yet to come. Preparation for Pentecost. It is almost like Jesus is priming the pump in John 20 and saying listen guys. Remember what I said in John 7 that out of you shall flow rivers of living water? When

the Holy Spirit is given, your lives are going to be changed dramatically forever. I think Jesus is again saying to them that's coming and it's not too far away.

So let's get to Pentecost. Here we go. The new beginning of Pentecost. We have something old – the ministry of the Holy Spirit under the old covenant, limited, selective, different. But yet here now we come to the beginning of Pentecost. If I were to ask you guys to write down the top days on the Christian calendar that come to mind, I mean I know what we would all have. We would all have Christmas maybe at the top or right next to resurrection Easter. Those two for us in our tradition would immediately come to mind. Those are huge days on the Christian calendar. We would probably have some that would think of Palm Sunday. There would be those that might think of Maundy Thursday. Good Friday certainly would make a number of lists. The first Sunday of Advent might be on somebody's list. I wonder how many of us would have Pentecost in the top five. As I studied this this week, it was kind of convicting because I think probably we should acknowledge on Pentecost Sunday that that is in fact the day of Pentecost. Pentecost is hugely important on the Christian calendar. From Pentecost on, everything changes. The ministry of the Holy Spirit comes to a climax on the day of Pentecost. Everything that we read about the ministry of the Holy Spirit to this point is all pointing to Pentecost. Everything that the Holy Spirit is going to do that we're going to get to study for the weeks that are ahead of us, all of those things that the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives and in our world flow out of this day. So here we have a day that is hugely important. Someone has said that Pentecost and the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit's Bethlehem. Jesus comes as the incarnate Son of God and is born in Bethlehem as the God man. Pentecost is like the Holy Spirit's Bethlehem.

So let's look at the timeline and just get something in our head about how this all is going to unfold. We have the cross. Everything has been pointing to the cross. Jesus dies on the cross and three days later obviously He is raised from the dead. Those three days are three days of heartache and despair and brokenness on the part of all of the followers of Jesus. They can't believe that it is over that He is no longer with them even though He had talked about it and told them about it. It just never clicked for them. So then there is resurrection Sunday. We just read about it in John 20. Three days after the cross is resurrection Sunday and all of the despair and the sadness yields to

incredible joy and rejoicing. The people of God are celebrating and the followers of Christ can't believe what they're experiencing. They have all of this coming back to them about what Jesus had said and it came to pass. Then for 40 days after the resurrection, they got to spend this time with Jesus. They reconnected with Him and spent no doubt many times fellowshiping with Him and just rejoicing in the fact that Jesus had been raised from the dead. They spent 40 days together leading up to the ascension. They knew that it couldn't go on forever. Jesus had told them that. So for 40 days, they have all of this time together but they know the day is coming when He's going to be taken up and caught up in glory. Sure enough on Ascension Day there is Jesus and He is caught up in the clouds probably on a Thursday actually if our timing is right. Following the ascension, there is 10 days of waiting and then Pentecost comes. That's what the Scriptures lay out for us. Jesus told them He was going to ascend. If He didn't ascend then He wasn't going to be able to send the other Comforter, the one who Jesus said unbelievably would be even better for them than if He were there with them. So Pentecost came.

Let's look at this promise fulfilled. What Jesus said comes to pass. Let's remind ourselves again of the promise and the promise that Jesus made. We could go to the Upper Room Discourse. We spent many Sundays looking at the Upper Room and even in this series we've looked at it often so we know that that is a large portion of Jesus's teaching about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Let's go to a couple of other places. Isaiah 44. Yes, back in the Old Testament. Isaiah 44: "But now here, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! Thus says the Lord God who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you; fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants." There is Isaiah talking about the promise of the Spirit. Joel chapter 2 verse 28: "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." so Joel talks about it. In Luke's Gospel and the 24th chapter and 49th verse: "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." That was Jesus's promise to the disciples. Then

finally we go over to the book of Acts and in Acts chapter 1 and verse 5, we read this: "For John baptized you with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." That's the promise not only from the words of our Lord but even the words of the Old Testament prophets who had spoken of the day that was going to radically change the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's people. It was going to happen and it was going to come on this promised day. It is repeated a number of times and now it's here.

Why do you suppose we have to wait 10 days? Why after the ascension do we wait 10 days for Pentecost to come? Let me give you a heavenly reason and an earthly reason. I think the heavenly reason for waiting 10 days is Jesus ascends to heaven. The God man Jesus had never been in heaven. The God man Jesus is welcomed into heaven. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, I think, got 10 days to celebrate. They took time to acknowledge this amazing and incredible work of the Son and how the plan of the Father applied by the Spirit was coming to pass. Jesus is welcomed into heaven and He is in his rightful place on the throne beside the Father. And so we have this welcome of our Lord into heaven.

But I think there's an earthly reason, and the earthly reason is this. There was a great gathering taking place in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Harvest. That was the fourth feast in Israel's seven annual feasts. In the Feast of Weeks that falls on the first Sunday that is now known as Pentecost, Jerusalem, which normally we are told by historians, had about 150,000 residents in the 1st century. Josephus said that the city of Jerusalem swelled up to nearly 1 million people for the celebration of the Feast of Weeks. Literally the hillsides and the countryside all around Jerusalem was filled with thousands of sojourners who came to Jerusalem for this amazing celebration. The Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Harvest was an acknowledgment of something to come. It was an acknowledgment of a harvest that was about to unfold. It was a time of great excitement. I can tell you that if you farmed for a living there was never a harvest that you didn't get some extra juices going because it was just exciting. When we lived in Kansas for 11 years in a farm community, it never ceased to amaze me that every time a harvest rolled around those guys just got juiced and jazzed a little bit because everything that they had done was now coming to fruition. It was a time to bring in the

harvest. That's what's happening at Pentecost. In the plan and purpose of God, Jerusalem is filled with travelers from all over the place who are coming to acknowledge that God is the one who is giving them the increase. Little do they know what's really coming on this amazing day. The Holy Spirit is about to be poured out on this Pentecost Sunday.

What actually happened on that day? Look at Acts chapter 2 verse 1: "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all gathered in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." First of all, this was a one-time event. Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit was a one-time event. It was a singular phenomenon in history. There are not multiple Pentecosts. There is one Pentecost. There is one time when the Father by means of request of the Son sent the Spirit. Everything changed. So it is a singular event in history. Unique. What Jesus promised would happen has now in fact happened. The Spirit is sent. The church is born.

Look at those verses. What is it that stands out? We all know what stands out. There's the audible sound of a rushing wind. Now this is not an actual wind. It is described as being a violent, forceful wind. But it's not a wind that is occurring. It is the sound of the wind. So there were no weatherman standing there trying to maintain their footage when Pentecost came and two people were walking by behind them like we saw in the recent coverage of the hurricane. They weren't being rocked physically by a wind. It was the sound of a rushing wind which would be pretty terrifying I would think as well.

But then notice secondly there was the visible evidence of seeing the divided tongues of fire. Not fire, but it looked like fire. Then there's the oral evidence of tongues in other languages. So the curse of Babel is reversed and when God brought judgment in Genesis 11 and dispersed the nations by confusing their languages, here just the opposite is happening. The nations are gathered and all are hearing their language being spoken.

So while this is a one-time event, the effects of Pentecost go on. The effects of Pentecost are ongoing. We're going to look in two weeks at the baptism of the Spirit. That's certainly one of the things that comes out of Acts and the work of the Spirit. But what happened on Pentecost Sunday morning at 9:00 AM is that the Holy Spirit's new covenant ministry began. The Holy Spirit's new covenant ministry began. The Spirit is given. The church began, and everything changes from that point on. The Spirit comes and takes the place of Christ so that Paul can rightly say Christ in you, the hope of glory.

How is Christ in you? He is in you by means of the Holy Spirit. Christ in you. We are baptized into the body of Christ without water. We're baptized and made a part of the body of Christ. We're indwelt forever by the Holy Spirit. We're sealed forever by the Holy Spirit. We're given gifts to serve by means of the Holy Spirit. We are filled and we're empowered by the Holy Spirit. All of that begins in a new way under the new covenant ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Here's what I think. I think if you asked those 1st century Pentecost believers what they remembered about the day of Pentecost, I think they would say there was an incredible wind. I think they would say it appeared that there were tongues of fire on people. I think they would say that there was this sense of the Spirit of God working because we heard the languages of all of these different people. But here is what I think they would want to talk about. We might look at those things and say that's what stands out to us. Here's what I think those people wanted to talk about. They wanted to talk about the fact that for the first time in their lives they understood the reality of what Jesus was talking about when He talked about going to the cross and when He talked about this temple being torn down and rebuilt in three days. They for the first time began to have insight into all the things that He had said before that they never understood. and now for the first time in their life it begins to make sense to them and their hearts are filled with joy at the understanding of what Jesus had taught for all of those sessions together. There was clarity about God's redemptive work in a way that they had never understood before. Their identity as being representatives of Jesus took on absolutely totally new meaning. Peter preaches his first message and 3000 people believe. That's not a bad start for your first message. I doubt if anybody even remembers my first

message and if they do it probably was not a good memory. Peter preaches his first message and 3000 people believe. That's what comes to their mind. That's what they remember.

I want to build off on that and wrap up with this. Let's look at the significance of Pentecost and see if we can't bring it into our life. As we do that, I could list 10 things. I've got time maybe for four but I'm going to try and give them to you. Pentecost first of all reminds us of the primary role of the church and God's work. It's the church that is primary under the new covenant. I don't think it's incidental and I don't think it's accidental that the Spirit of God is poured out on a gathering of God's people. God could have done it anyway He wanted. He did it by means of the fact that His people were gathering together. It speaks to me of the centrality of the church and God's work. How sad it is that in America, how sad it is that influenced by our culture, our individualism, our sheer idea of consumerism taking over every area of our life that we have Christians who think this is an incidental thing. If it's there and it's convenient, then fine. But if it's not, that's no big deal. It's anything but essential. The first community valued coming together as the people of God. Can you imagine if you missed that Sunday gathering? Can you imagine what that would've felt like if you had said to a friend hey, what happened on Sunday? No big deal. The Holy Spirit was just poured out on us in great power and glory. So we ask ourselves what is the level of our commitment to the body of Christ. What does that look like in your life?

Secondly, Pentecost underscores the mission of the church. It underscores the mission of the church. We are a community in which all people are to be drawn to the gospel. What we have in the book of Acts in the Pentecost is multi-lingual, multicultural, multi-ethnic. In all of these various facets coming together as the people of God. It is a snapshot of Paul in Galatians 3. There is neither Jew nor Greek anymore. There aren't bond or free. There isn't male or female. He isn't saying there aren't those distinctions but now we're one in Christ. That's the mission of the church to bring together these different groups of people so that we are all welcome within the body of Christ. We should stop and ask ourselves what's our heart? What's our attitude towards someone new to Covenant? How do we respond to people who don't look the way we do, who don't sound the way we do? Do we have a big heart and open heart or do we find

ourselves moving in a different direction? the church is to be made up of people who welcome this diversity.

Thirdly, Pentecost points to the ministry of the church. The ministry of the church. Every Christian indwelt by the Spirit, every Christian gifted by the Spirit, every Christian called to serve. The church is the place where each one of us uses our gifts and abilities and talents to bring about a greater health and greater vitality to enable the church to fulfill its mission and its ministry. So we stop and we say what am I doing? Am I serving and using the gifts that God has given me? This all began on Pentecost. The gifts of the Spirit are poured out from that point on in a different way than in any other time.

Finally, Pentecost calls us to consider how we're living each day. Pentecost calls us to consider how we're living each day. I tell you it is God's will for our life that we live every moment of every day mindful and aware of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person with whom we have a relationship. The Holy Spirit is God who lives within us. Does my life reflect that? Does my life reflect the fruit of the Spirit and the joy of the Spirit? Or is the Holy Spirit, as Francis Chan said, the forgotten God in my life? My friends, Pentecost changed everything. The Spirit has come. The church was born and we are blessed beyond measure.

What do we take away? It seems to me the constant refrain of our lives should be joy and thanksgiving for the gift of the Holy Spirit. What an amazing thing God has chosen to do to bless us individually, corporately with the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. We don't want to let a day go by without thanking the Father, without thanking the Son, without thanking the Spirit for giving us this amazing gift. That gift comes to us by means of the gospel. The gospel tells us that we can't work our way into our relationship with God. The gospel tells us that a relationship with God is by grace. If you will acknowledge before God that you can't work your way there, that you can't do enough things to please God, that you're putting your trust in what Jesus did on the cross, then He gives you the gift of eternal life and He gives you the gift of His Spirit. That is the greatest expression of the love of God that we could ever receive.

Let's pray. Father God, we are mindful again this morning of this incredible and amazing gift that You have given to us of Your own Spirit. Lord, it truly is beyond our capacity to express our thanksgiving to know that living within us is the very presence of

God by means of Your Spirit. So Lord, fill our hearts with that understanding. Fill our hearts with joy. We lift our voices to say to You that we want to honor You and all that we do and all that we say. We want to live life as those who understand that they are in fact the very Temple of the living God. We pray this in Jesus's name, Amen.