

In the Holy Spirit

Gregg Brenes

In crisis, the early followers of Christ responded by humbling themselves, turning back to God and desperately seeking His presence.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or an "it", but a Person with whom you can have an intimate relationship.

God *with* you is good, but God *in* you is even better.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. John 16:7 ESV

The Holy Spirit gives us power, not just to *do* something, but to *be* something.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit transforms you from the inside out.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4

Where in your life is the Holy Spirit calling you to surrender to Him?

Let's Connect

Think of something that you've tried to do on your strength, apart from the help of God and others. What was the result?

Let's Talk About It

From the beginning of the COVID crisis, our goal has not been to not just go through the crisis, but to grow through this trial and come back stronger for it. We can be stronger for it because we can choose how we will respond. The early followers of Jesus responded in crisis by humbling themselves, turning back to God and desperately seeking His presence. As we do the same, we trust that the Holy Spirit will give us supernatural courage to live the life God created us to live, boldly declaring the good news of Jesus in a broken and hurting world.

Acts 1:1-8; John 7:37-39; Luke 4:1, 14, 18; John 16:7; Acts 2:1-4

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Before hearing Pastor Gregg's message, what was your idea of the Holy Spirit? Did you think of him as a Person, or an "it"?
- Read Acts 1:1-8. Pastor Gregg said, "God with you is good, but God in you is even better." As believers, we live with the presence of Jesus Christ dwelling in us, through the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit bring God's power into your daily life?
- Read John 16:7. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit at work in your life? What areas do you possibly need to surrender to the Holy Spirit in order to allow Him to teach, counsel, guide, convict and change you?
- Read Acts 2:1-4. Has there been a time in your life when you felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to step out and do something bold? What was it and how did you respond? Has there been a time when you feel you ignored the prompting of the Holy Spirit? What happened?

Take a Step

- Where in your life is the Holy Spirit calling you to surrender to Him? Take a step and give this area of your life to God.
- SOAP reading for this week: **Day 1:** Psalm 8, Romans 15; **Day 2:** Psalm 32, Romans 16; **Day 3:** Psalm 50; James 1; **Day 4:** Psalm 89, James 2; **Day 5:** Psalm 94, James 3; **Day 6:** Psalm 125, James 4; **Day 7:** Psalm 150, James 5.

Here's My Prayer

- Lord, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Fill me with Your power. Transform me by Your presence and make me a bold witness for You.