

## “Holy Spirit Alive! ON US”

Scripture: Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1

Graphics: dove, person

Big Truth: The Holy Spirit is the living, active presence of God. That Holy Spirit lives in each person that follows Jesus as Lord and Savior. And, the Holy Spirit is active with the body of Christ in the world. This series begins with an introduction about the Holy Spirit and then, through the Psalms, teaches us about the Holy Spirit alive ON us, IN us, WITH us, THROUGH us, and TO us. Every person that comes to PUMC will be invited to allow the Holy Spirit more access to their life and to the church we serve.

Focus Phrase: Holy Spirit come alive ON me so people see outward signs of Jesus!

### 1. Introduction

#### A. VIDEO/AUDIO - HolySpiritAliveIntro Video

- B. In the gospel of Mark, chapter 1, we read one of the most powerful scenes in ALL of scripture.
- i. John the Baptist, dressed in clothes made from camel’s hair, was standing in the Jordan River, preaching and calling anyone who would listen to turn from their sinful ways and any dependence on themselves...and turn TO the God who wants to forgive them and lead them.
  - ii. Lots of people were streaming into the water, repenting of their sin, and being baptized by John in the water...going down into the water - which signifies death to self - and coming back up out the water - which signifies rebirth.
  - iii. John’s said he was baptizing people with WATER, **but there was someone coming - Jesus - who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit!** Luke’s gospel adds that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and FIRE!
  - iv. And, as John was preaching and baptizing, Jesus himself came to that riverbank. He walked down into the water and was baptized by John.
  - v. And at that instant...well, let’s let Mark tell us: “In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’”
- C. The Holy Spirit...described here as the initiator of Jesus’ ministry. The Holy Spirit...who we read about in Acts 2, is the power source for the church, even to this day.
- D. The Holy Spirit...the living, active presence of God in the world...the very nature of our Triune God that empowers our spiritual gifts, guides us in the truth, and carries God’s grace into our lives and in the church.

- E. Every person that acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord, as we confessed last week, HAS the Holy Spirit come to dwell INSIDE them.
- F. And even knowing and believing ALL that, why do I so often minimize, forget, work around, and fail to work with the Holy Spirit in my life? Maybe you can relate with me.
- G. Maybe Reader's Digest can help (usually does...) "In the world of technology there is a new development called Hyper Sonic Sound (HSS). The inventor, Elwood "Woody" Norris, has engineered sound waves to travel like a laser beam for about 150 yards. This allows sounds to be heard by a person in a particular place but not by those immediately around them. You could be listening to music or specific instructions while those standing next to you would be left in total silence. If you move out of the tightly formed path of these unique sound waves you too will be unaware of any noise. God's communication with us is very similar to these sound waves. We must be in the right place to hear the Holy Spirit, and when we're there the message is clear. If we move away from the pathway of His voice we become unaware of the fact that He is communicating with us and we consequently miss the message. (Reader's Digest, March, 2005)
- H. I don't want to miss even one communication from God, do you?
- I. So, the Worship Team decided that it was time for some additional equipping on inviting, working with, listening for, and responding to the Holy Spirit.
- J. And because we've just crossed over into a new year, it's a great time to start a new series, a new focus, and a new opportunity to grow as disciples.
- K. The goal of this series is that every person would allow the Holy Spirit more access to your life.**
- L. A year ago, we spent the first part of 2020 launching our Intentional Discipleship Process. (I know it seems like a lifetime ago) We called it SHIFT...and we challenged the church to Clutch, Shift, Accelerate, and Repeat in 6 Milestone - worship, community, openness, obeying, serving, and sharing. Everything we do has been and is an attempt to grow disciples that then make new disciples. 2021 will be no different as we continue to grow from disciples who are exploring to disciples that are centered in Christ, fully committed to Jesus.
- M. But the power source, the Initiator, of everything we do, is the Holy Spirit. SO, that's where we'll spend the next 5 weeks.
- N. Today, we'll start with getting us on the same page with the Holy Spirit. Then, for the next four weeks, we'll go to the Book of Psalms, to learn about HOW the Holy Spirit works and what our response should be.

- O. Now, you may be thinking, “Holy Spirit in the Book of Psalms?” Yep! You see, the Holy Spirit has been active since Creation. The people of God throughout time may not have had such a formal Holy Spirit awareness as we have now, but the authors of the Psalms often put into words that which we struggle to express!
- P. SO, using the Psalms, we’ll explore the Holy Spirit Alive!, which is our series title. We’ll explore the Holy Spirit Alive ON us, IN us, WITH us, THROUGH us, and TO us.
- Q. All with the goal of allowing the Holy Spirit more access to our lives, every day...so that we grow as disciples and make new ones.
- R. Let’s pray and then we’ll turn to Acts chapter 19...to a group of people who were in need of the Holy Spirit ON THEM...just like us.
- S. **PRAY!**
- T. Acts chapter 19, starting in verse 1...let’s hear those pages turning...

## 2. Scripture

- A. **READ Acts 19:1-7**
- B. They needed the Holy Spirit ON them!
- C. At this point in the book of Acts, Paul was doing some serious traveling to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- D. This was a very new thing to most people. And they didn’t have the types of communication we have today, thankfully. They had to rely on word of mouth from people they trusted or letters from people in authority.
- E. And as you can imagine, the message about Jesus, and what he called them to do, didn’t always get communicated accurately or fully.
- F. In Acts 18, just prior to our text today, a man named Apollos was teaching people about Jesus, but had a few things incorrect...and he was taken aside and gently corrected by Priscilla and Aquila, two of Paul’s main missionary companions, who heard him teaching one day.
- G. Paul then made his way to Ephesus, where he found a group of disciples - which in Acts means followers of Jesus.
- H. Now, Paul must have thought something was a little off in his initial discussions with these disciples because he asked them about their baptisms. It would seem logical that new believers would be all “on fire” (pun intended) with talk of the Holy Spirit. Yet, these disciples obviously were not talking about the work of the Holy Spirit.
- I. So Paul ask if indeed they received the Holy Spirit when they believed.
- J. Nope...never even heard of Him! (hmmmm...)

- K. Upon further inquiry, Paul found out that these disciples received John's baptism...of repentance of their sin. GREAT!
- L. However, the problem was that John's baptism alone was incomplete...and that was according to John himself. Back in Mark 1:8, John said to the crowds being baptized by him, "I baptize you with water, but he (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." THAT's what these Ephesian disciples were missing!
- M. When Jesus stepped into the water next to John, the Holy Spirit came ON him, like a dove...an outward and visible sign to everyone that the Holy Spirit was ON him from that moment on. And it wasn't that Jesus needed to have the Holy Spirit on him. Jesus IS ONE with the Holy Spirit and the Father.
- N. Yet, the visible, living presence of the Holy Spirit ON Jesus, which people could only describe as light and dove and heaven being torn open, was for everyone BUT Jesus.
- O. This visual presence of the Holy Spirit descending ON Jesus was so that those around him would know that Jesus was God's beloved Son..."
- P. SO...Paul laid his hands on the disciples in Ephesus. They received the Holy Spirit ON THEM that day.
- Q. And **they, too, had outward visible signs** of the presence of the Holy Spirit ON them.
- R. Not a like a dove or light, but they spoke in tongues and they prophesied - both outward spiritual gifts that build up the church and glorify God.

### 3. Application

- A. The desire of every earnest follower of Jesus needs to be, "Holy Spirit come alive ON me so people see outward signs of Jesus in my life!"
- B. Now, that might not be speaking in tongues or prophesying...but it MIGHT be.
- C. People often describe brides as having a glow! I think every follower of Jesus should have the Holy Spirit's fire glow ON them because the One who has come UPON you is living and active and lit up with hope and joy!
- D. Right now, that's NOT easy! Like you, I watched in horror as people stormed the US Capital on Wednesday. I never thought I would see a day when we'd have to process those images that appeared on my newsfeed. I honestly prayed for Jesus to come back at that moment.
- E. But then I realized that we have work to do. Jesus has work to do in our lives. The Holy Spirit has work to do! The world NEEDS JESUS!
- F. And the WAY the world will experience Jesus is by allowing the Holy Spirit to have full access to the lives of those who believe, stand up, and love the, literal, hell out of the world.

- G. It's pretty easy for us to give the Spirit **SOME** of our lives. The Spirit can have Sunday morning for a couple hours. The Spirit can shine **ON** me when I pray or when my family gathers to read the Bible.
- H. The Holy Spirit is the tangible presence of Jesus. And Jesus wants to have **MORE** access to you...to have more access to **EVERYTHING** in your life?
- I. If we go to our Intentional Discipleship Process, having the Holy Spirit **Alive ON** you grows you in the milestones of Openness, Community, and Service... these are pathways to the outward signs of the Holy Spirit.
- J. Let's look at each one:
  - i. To grow in **openness**, Allow the Holy Spirit to come ON you.
    - a. This is more than a willingness to receive the Holy Spirit. We do that when we become believers. This is a willingness to be **public** about it.
    - b. The Holy Spirit is the real and active **presence** of Jesus...and having Jesus **ON** us gives the world something to talk about.
      - i) What, you don't get drunk? Nope, Jesus is on me.
      - ii) What, you don't cheat on your taxes, even just a little? Nope. Got Jesus all over me.
      - iii) How can you **NOT** watch that show or **NOT** play that game? Well... the Holy Spirit is **ON** me.
    - c. Growing in openness with the Holy Spirit **ON** you is both openness to God and openness with the world around you.
    - d. Take the Holy Spirit **ON** you.
  - ii. Second, to grow in **community**, Wear the Holy Spirit ON your Countenance.
    - a. Countenance is a big word that means your face or facial expressions. We have more muscles in our faces than in any other part of our bodies. You think God wasn't aware of that when He created us?
    - b. With the Holy Spirit **ON** you, give the world around you something to talk about. I know that's really hard right now with masks on. In fact, when I smile with my mask on, it looks like I'm angry-squinting at people. "Wasn't that Pastor Steve? Why is he angry at us?"
    - c. But it's even more than that. It's your attitude and willingness to show the world your true self with Jesus in your life. Your eyes and bodies can tell a story too. Your body reflects your love for others. You're a reflection of what God is doing in our lives. God wants your face to give hope to a hopeless world and joy to those who are hurting.
    - d. Let your light **SHINE** before all people!

iii. Then, to grow in **service**, Let your Gifts be Evident to Others

- a. We all have at least one spiritual gift. The Holy Spirit is the giver and activator of every one of your spiritual gifts.
- b. Once you know what yours are, even if they are some of the more internal or private gifts, allow the Holy Spirit ON you to use them in service to the church.
- c. When you use your gifts, and are energized by that, others will see that and be blessed, lifted up, encouraged, motivated...
- d. Let your gifts be evident to others.

**4. Conclusion**

- A. Holy Spirit come alive ON me so people see the outward signs of Jesus in my life.
- B. This week, take stock on your awareness of the Holy Spirit. If you aren't sure were to start, simply allow the knowledge that as a believer, the Holy Spirit is in you to begin to sink in.
- C. Pray for more awareness of the Holy Spirit's evidence in your life.
- D. And then allow the Spirit to have more access to you.
- E. Grow in openness, and community, and service, as the Spirit ON you displays Jesus to those around you.
- F. Imagine a church where all the people are glowing and growing because of the Holy Spirit alive ON them!
- G. That's where we're heading, church!
- H. Let's pray.