

“Holy Spirit Alive! WITH US”

Scripture: Psalm 62:1-12

Graphics: dove, fortress, rock

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 WITH me so I will confidently trust in God!

1. Introduction

A. VIDEO/AUDIO - HolySpiritAliveIntro Video

B. Some shameless jokes to begin the message this morning, just because it's January and cold and cloudy:

- i. Why should you never trust the tree in your front yard? **It seems kind of *shady*.**
- ii. Why should you never trust an artist? **They're kind of *sketchy*.**
- iii. Why should you always trust your fingers? **Because you can always *count on them*.** OK...one more...
- iv. Why should you not trust fishermen? **They're always *angling for something*.** {groan}

C. Now that you're groaning...let's talk about trust. Trust is no joke. Trust is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as *the firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something*.

D. Trust is what we experience when someone or something is reliable and consistent.

E. Whereas faith is the belief in something because of a trait or belief even without seeing proof, trust is built from consistent presence, character, and integrity.

F. Today, we're moving into Week 3 of our Holy Spirit Alive sermon series. So far, we've explored the Holy Spirit Alive ON us and the Holy Spirit Alive IN us. The Holy Spirit ON us is evidence of Jesus in our lives. The Holy Spirit IN us leads us to be known and worship and be led by God.

G. Today, we move to the Holy Spirit Alive WITH us.

H. The goal of this series is to allow the Holy Spirit to have more access to our lives. Because the Holy Spirit is WITH us, we build confident trust in God's salvation, protection, and mission.

- I. If you're taking notes this morning at home or here in the house, write this prayer down: **Holy Spirit come alive WITH me so I will confidently trust in You!**
- J. This morning, we're going to Psalm 62. This is a psalm attributed to Israelite King David...a song of trust in God alone.
- K. And as I said last week, we sometimes wonder how the Holy Spirit is active in the Old Testament, before Jesus was born. Yet, we see the Spirit at work at all times in the lives of the people of the Old Testament.
- L. Last week, we heard the psalmist ask in Psalm 139:7, "Where can I go from you spirit, or where can I flee from your presence?"
- M. Not only is the Holy Spirit Alive ON us, and IN us, but the Holy Spirit is alive WITH us, which brings us confidence to trust God alone and not ourselves or the things of this world. Let's pray and open our bibles this morning to be filled up and honor God.
- N. **PRAY!**
- O. Psalm 62...starting in verse 1. Three sections to this psalm. The first is a confession about God's Spirit WITH us, the second is instruction for God's people, and the third is a commitment to stand up WITH the Spirit.
- P. Let's read...

2. Scripture

A. READ Psalm 62:1-7

- i. The picture we get at the beginning of this psalm is one of quiet contemplation... "My soul waits in silence..."
- ii. Verses 1-2 tell us of a person who is confessing confidence and trust in a God who is working in the world, and yet is standing WITH him or her.
- iii. If we were to stop at verse 2, we'd find that the author of this song has faith in God's presence and salvation. Salvation in the bible always relates to having LIFE. And so this psalmist is still - not shaken.
- iv. But that last line reveals a little more of what's going on. It's not that the psalmist is simply still before God and thankful for salvation because everything is perfect and peaceful.
- v. The last line confesses that God alone is, "...my fortress; I shall not be shaken." (pause)
- vi. You don't need a fortress when things are peaceful. You wouldn't confess that you shall not be shaken, unless something was attempting to shake you.
- vii. And, by the time we move to verses 3-4, we begin to see more of the picture of the author's life. Something - we don't know what - has been

battering our author. Someones have been assailing this person. The goal of the enemy alluded to here is to tear down this person's life, like a weakened wall...with deceit and curses.

- viii. And, THAT is why the psalmist is still...waiting for the Lord, who has proven to be a fortress, rock, salvation, and rescue.
- ix. Whatever the offense or struggle, it's already occurred or IS occurring and the psalmist is sitting still, remembering what the issues are, and giving it to God in confident faith and trust that God is WITH him.
- x. The psalmist comes back to the present by confessing, again, in verses 5-7, "For God alone my soul waits in silence..."
- xi. When God is WITH us, in the form of the Spirit of God who is also ON us, and IN, then we can confess our trust that no matter WHAT the circumstance, we can trust Him. Faith endures throughout the ongoing threat.
- xii. The psalmist then shifts gears to the community...the ones who would read this, or sing this song. This is all about corporate instruction of the body... those who would someday be persecuted or assailed.
- xiii. Verse 8...

B. READ Psalm 62:8-10

- i. Here's the lesson:
 - a. Trust in God. Take refuge in God.
 - b. Don't trust in people. Don't trust in money. Don't trust in security from worldly things. Don't even trust in yourself or what YOU can do or get.
 - c. Trust in God.
- ii. I love this imagery of scales in verse 9. Put God - or trust in God's presence - on one side of the scale, and put ANYTHING ELSE, or ANYONE else, including yourself, on the other side of the scale, and the side with God will ALWAYS go down...will be heavier...will be greater.
- iii. The message to the community of faith is that God's presence can be trusted...at ALL times...in ALL circumstances.
- iv. "Trust in God at all times, O people." One last section...verses 11-12...

C. READ Psalm 62:11-12

- i. As we move to the end of this psalm, I picture the psalmist rising, chin up, looking to God and the community and simply saying:
 - a. I have heard this...I understand this...I have confidence in this:
 - b. Power belongs to God.

- c. Steadfast love belongs to God.
- d. And everything is under God's control.
- ii. Through all the trials and prayer and waiting on God, there is a new commitment to the God who is WITH him.

3. Application

- A. Throughout this psalm, we get the distinct feeling that the psalmist is experiencing God as intimate but separate...powerful in every place, but lovingly with him. That's the essence of the Spirit of God alive WITH us.
- B. God's Spirit is working OUT there...and yet God is also WITH you and me as we sit in prayer and waiting on Him.
- C. God is everywhere and God is as close as a breath. And that can ONLY happen when a tangible presence of God is experienced.
- D. When Jesus gave the first disciples the distinct presence of the Holy Spirit, he didn't just tell them that the Spirit was WITH them. In John 20, Jesus appeared to the disciples and breathed on them... "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- E. In the same way the psalmist was waiting in fear, the disciples were waiting in fear. In the same way the psalmist trusted in God's presence, the disciples were given the Holy Spirit as the means to trust and confidence.
- F. After the disciples received the Holy Spirit WITH them, they began their ministry of preaching, teaching, healing, and spreading the Good News.
- G. Life wasn't roses for them...not even close. They were persecuted, beaten, threatened, and even killed. But they kept the faith and the mission because the Holy Spirit was WITH them, just like our psalmist.
- H. Is the presence of the Holy Spirit WITH you increasing your trust in God's power and steadfast love?
- I. Is your prayer: Holy Spirit come alive WITH me so I will confidently trust in You?
- J. Because the Holy Spirit is WITH you, you can build trust, even when things around you are difficult:
 - i. First, **Spend time being silent before the Lord.**
 - a. The Holy Spirit sits WITH you...alive and present.

- b. Be in prayer. Be in worship.
 - c. When there's a cacophony of noises around you, it's impossible to hear.
 - d. When the noises are from people or circumstances that are trying to tear you down, or that the devil is using to undermine God's good purposes in your life, then those noises become all you hear.
 - e. Out of obedience to Him, listen for His voice. He is WITH you.
 - f. In the process, when you listen to the still small voice of the Spirit with you, you gain insight, you grow in wonder and wisdom, and you grow in confidence.
- ii. Then, **Encourage others to trust in God.**
- a. Because the Holy Spirit is Alive WITH you, the Spirit has already prepared the soil to receive the seeds of trust you're planting.
 - b. But in order to encourage others to trust the presence of God in all circumstances, you have trust God yourself and be trustworthy.
 - c. One thing I tell younger pastors is that they must begin to build trust the moment they begin leading a congregation. But they must keep building trust, and being trustworthy.
 - d. That can only come when they trust in the one leading them. And when someone sees you trusting the Lord, then you can show them how to trust the Lord too.
 - e. Do what you say you will do - that's integrity. Don't break the trust that God or others have given to you. Keep building trust with God and with others.
 - f. Don't trust in your money. Don't trust in your job. Don't even trust in yourself as the final authority in your life. Trust in God alone. And...
- iii. **Stand up WITH the Holy Spirit and commit to Serving Him.**
- a. The psalmist declares that God is power...and God is steadfast love.
 - b. You know those things as truth because of the Holy Spirit WITH you.
 - c. As close as a breath, but as omnipotent in the entire universe, God is WITH you.
 - d. With that confidence, trust, and faith, stand firm and commit this day, this week, this life to serving Him...and inviting others to be part of the awesome truth of God's salvation, forgiveness, and power...the power that raised Jesus from the dead so He could walk out of his own grave under his own power.
 - e. Commit, church! And then we can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (our mission) by lovingly giving every

person in our community the opportunity to believe in and follow Jesus (our vision).

4. Conclusion

- A. All jokes aside, the Holy Spirit WITH us is God's presence in every circumstance and stage of life. Even today.
- B. Charles Wesley wrote an unnamed hymn about the Holy Spirit with these words, "Holy Ghost, no more delay; Come, and in thy temple stay: Now thine inward witness bear, Strong, and permanent, and clear: Spring of life, thyself impart; Rise eternal in my heart."
- C. It's the confident trust that God's Spirit will be present WITH us that gives us the ability to rise and commit to Jesus.
- D. Holy Spirit come alive WITH me so I will confidently trust in God!
- E. Holy Spirit come alive WITH US so WE will confidently trust in YOU!
- F. The Holy Spirit is Alive ON us, IN us, and WITH us.
- G. Let's abandon everything else in which we trust, in order to TRUST confidently in God alone.
- H. Let's pray...