

“Holy Spirit Alive! THROUGH US”

Scripture: Psalm 111 and 112

Graphics: dove, worship

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 THROUGH ME to praise and live for you.

1. Introduction

A. VIDEO/AUDIO - HolySpiritAliveIntro Video

- B. I grew up a theatre brat. My parents were on stage and directing plays and musicals ever since I was born. So, I spent many days and nights at the theatre...playing with matchbox cars between the rows of seats in the auditorium of our local elementary school, where the little community theatre group would rehearse for and perform musicals.
- C. I remember watching the auditorium transform from a bare stage, with actors who were wearing their normal street clothes at the beginning...to a magical place with scenery, costumes, props, lights, microphones, audiences, applause, and closing curtain calls.
- D. Looking back on it now, and having done both professional and school theatre work, I am amazed at how the ‘stage was set.’ And it wasn’t until the stage was set that the show could go on!
- E. When the stage was set, all the other pieces could come together to perform the musical or play. All that time rehearsing, memorizing, singing, building sets, setting lights and mics, and getting all the timing right came to life on opening night.
- F. And through those actors, and through the stage crew and technical crew, and through the audience, even, the performance came to life.
- G. My dad often reflected on the theatre saying, “The world itself is a stage, on which WE are the actors, and through whom our play comes to life.” Not only do we need the actors and the stage, but the play and all those others.
- H. As followers of Jesus, with the Holy Spirit ON us, IN us, and WITH us in this life, OUR stage is world around us. God has set the stage, He has given the scenery, the script, the props, and the actors...AND, HE HAS FILLED IT ALL WITH THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT to bring it all to life.

- I. Without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, it's a play without a plot... it's a musical without songs...it's a drama without any point!
- J. Yet THROUGH US, that Holy Spirit is Alive, living out God's commands and character in a world that needs to know the love of God.
- K. In some ways, we are the living, breathing actors and tech crew and pit band in God's grand musical. Our job - no, our honor and our privilege - is to allow the Holy Spirit more access to the life GOD HIMSELF has given to us...to allow the Spirit to come alive THROUGH US, so that the world will know that Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- L. Today, we wrap up this sermon series called Holy Spirit Alive. We'll be taking one more look into the books of Psalms...in Psalm 111 and 112.
- M. In Psalm 111, God set the stage for the Holy Spirit to be at work THROUGH US. In Psalm 112, we'll praise the Lord for using US - you and me - to BE the agents of the Holy Spirit.
- N. The goal of this series is to invite each one of us to allow the Holy Spirit to have more access to our lives...every moment.
- O. Let's pray and then dive into the psalms...and allow God to prepare us, equip us, and empower us to allow the Holy Spirit to be Alive THROUGH US.
- P. **PRAY!**
- Q. Psalm 111...Let's read...

2. Scripture

A. READ Psalm 111:1

- i. It all starts with praise...with worship...with thanksgiving.
- ii. We know that God has pre-wired all creation to worship Him. Jesus said that if all people were silent, even the rocks would cry out in praise.
- iii. God has pre-wired every person to worship Him. Psalm 150:6 "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"
- iv. Through faith in the God of the universe - that we believe He is who He says He is - and the presence of the Holy Spirit Alive IN us, ON us, and WITH us, that pre-wired program in us **activates**, compelling us to worship.
- v. It's like a computer program that just waits for the power switch to surge through the hardware. Once it's there, the program launches.
- vi. The psalmist finds himself worshiping because God exists!
- vii. And that worship isn't just with mouth, or mind, or feet or hands...the psalmist declares that he will worship "WITH MY WHOLE HEART," which is code for "with EVERYTHING I have" or completely!

- viii. And he worships in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- ix. This tell us that worship is intensely personal, **but it is not private**. Let me say that again, worship is intensely personal, but it is NOT private.
- x. God never intended for people to have the Holy Spirit ON, IN, and WITH them, and stay in a closet alone and worship.
- xi. We offer ourselves in worship...allowing the Holy Spirit to activate our desire to worship THROUGH US.
- xii. And then the psalmist goes on to say why...

B. READ Psalm 111:2-6

- i. The reason the psalmist is compelled to allow the Spirit to activate his desire for worship is because God has proven that He is worthy to be worshipped...worthy to be honored.
- ii. The faith that the author has is based on the fact that he has **studied** THE WORKS of God and found them to be great and delightful!
 - a. They are full of honor and majesty, he writes.
 - b. They are righteous forever!
 - c. Because of His deeds, God has gained renown.
 - d. God is gracious and merciful - which means God gives us the good gifts we don't deserve and withholds the punishment we DO deserve.
 - e. God gives food, or provision, to those who fear Him. We'll come back to that idea of fearing the Lord in a minute.
 - f. God is faithful to the promises He made with His people - to establish and strengthen them as a people.
 - g. He has shown the world his power - through all He has done.
 - h. He has grown His people by allowing them to conquer nations.
- iii. For this author, he's recounting - remembering - God's work through the Jewish people as He brought them out from slavery in Egypt. And when He took them out into the wilderness and sustained them for decades. When He brought them into the Promised Land, and gave them the Law and provided for every need - physical, spiritual, emotional.
- iv. The psalmist is worshipping because God has set the stage in every play, written the script, built and painted all the scenery, and powered the lights.
- v. All the people needed to do was to allow God to show them that He loved them so much that He provided for it all. All they needed to do was to be on stage with God, to see what He was doing - to study everything they could about God.

- vi. And that's exactly what he calls US to do as well.
- vii. And then, they - and we - are called to action...verse 7

C. READ Psalm 111:7-10

- i. Verse 7 says God that God's precepts are trustworthy. Precepts are defined as general rules intended to regulate behavior or thought. God's precepts are outward expressions of the character of God. God would never expect us to follow a rule or command that doesn't reflect His nature or character.
- ii. God is loving - so he loves his people and asks us to love. God is gracious - so he gives even though we don't deserve it and asks us to offer grace. God is merciful - so shows compassion to all people and wants us to be merciful. God is powerful - so he shows power in Creation and miracles...and wants HIS Spirit power to work THROUGH US.
- iii. Within those precepts are the expectations that His people will follow them. And the way that happens is by the Holy Spirit following them THROUGH us. We don't have the power within us alone to worship, to see God's precepts, or follow them.
- iv. It's only when we allow the Holy Spirit to do those things THROUGH US that they become realities in our lives.
- v. And that happens in our lives because of two things: the FEAR OF THE LORD and WISDOM
 - a. In verse 10 we read that, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..."
 - b. The fear of the Lord is not simply cowering in the corner in the presence of God, although that's probably where I'd be if God showed up in this Sanctuary right now.
 - c. The fear of the Lord is also **reverence, honor, and worship** of God.
 - d. But the psalmist takes that one step further and says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - e. See, when we revere and honor God, we're compelled to worship. When we revere and honor God, we're compelled to obey God.
 - f. This wisdom we obtain when we fear the Lord is the the knowledge of the precepts of God. This wisdom is the obeying. This wisdom is wanting to please God and not ourselves.
 - g. And that WISDOM comes to us when the Holy Spirit of Jesus lives THROUGH US!

3. Application

- A. Picture yourself in your life on God's stage with Him, and He has done all the work to set your stage, and has given you the script. The script is the Bible, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The curtain opens and it's time to LIVE...to be ALIVE for God.
- B. Most of us would be so tongue-tied that we'd just stand there and stare at the audience...just stare at the people around us.
- C. Until you realize that the Holy Spirit IN you, ON you, and WITH you, is about to work THROUGH YOU to make this play come to life!
- D. My question for you this morning is: will you allow the Spirit more access to your life so that whatever the Spirit wants to do, it'll happen **through** you... through the person next to you...through the church?
- E. You've asked the Holy Spirit to have more access to your life IN you, ON you, and WITH you.
- F. Now ask the Holy Spirit to have more access so that you can fear the Lord, gain His wisdom, and show God's precepts to the world THROUGH YOU.
- G. It's starts with **WORSHIP**
 - i. THROUGH YOU, the Holy Spirit wants to worship!
 - ii. Worship here right now is simply the rehearsal for the big show when Jesus returns. You'll be worshipping for eternity when He comes back.
 - iii. God established the church so that we, together, could practice worshipping now in preparation for eternity.
 - iv. And I can tell you, it won't be quiet. It won't be stiff. It won't be boring. It won't be anything but full-on praise, bowing before the Lord, face down in humility or hands raised in mighty Hallelujahs!
 - v. Open yourself more and more to worship in community together. If you're worshipping at home today, there will come a day very soon when you will be able to come to worship here...or maybe we'll come to you (that'll be fun...put the coffee on!)
 - vi. We'll be together for worship...and we'll keep practicing like it's the final dress rehearsal...every week!
 - vii. Our Intentional Discipleship Process includes growing in a life of Worship. The goal is to have your life CENTERED in worship...to worship God in the ways you work, play, and engage others in relationships: all of life.
 - viii. It starts right here...and it culminates through eternity. Let the Spirit worship THROUGH you.
- H. Then, allow the Spirit THROUGH YOU to **STUDY MORE ABOUT GOD**

- i. Check out what God is doing around you...allow the Holy Spirit to work through you to identify all the God sightings around you.
 - ii. Our Sunday School classes are creating a board with a whole bunch of God sightings on it. You'll see that in the Gallery near the Cafe. Add a God sighting! The psalmist said it would produce delight in your life! I don't know about you, but more delight in life would be REALLY good right now.
 - iii. The best way to study what God has done, is doing, and will do is to allow the Spirit to show you in the Bible.
 - a. Read the Old Testament books with an eye for what God wants you to do...what God expects from your character and life.
 - b. Read the New Testament to know Jesus more. Ephesians 1:17 says, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." We need to know Jesus better...let the Spirit work THROUGH YOU to know Jesus better.
- I. Finally, allow the Spirit more access to work THROUGH YOU to **FOLLOW HIS PRECEPTS** - do what Jesus did!
- i. Worshiping is great - it's awesome! Studying God to know more about God's ways is necessary.
 - ii. But rolling up your sleeves to BE part of the body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit is the goal. We are to be people who have the fear of the Lord...ready to serve Him...to keep His precepts...to be His people.
 - iii. Don't try to invent ministries to do or ways to serve on your own. Give the Holy Spirit more access to your life, and then let the Holy Spirit minister through you.
 - iv. I find myself sometimes so focused on what I think I need to do in ministry that I reject the promptings of the Holy Spirit to work THROUGH me.
 - v. Let Jesus minister to His world THROUGH you...using your hands, your feet, your mind, your heart...ALL OF YOU, COMPLETELY.
 - vi. Allow the Holy Spirit more access to your life...to work THROUGH YOU to worship, study God, and to follow God's precepts.

4. Conclusion

- A. If Psalm 111 is God setting the stage for who He is and what He expects, then Psalm 112 is the actual rehearsal for making the play a reality.
- B. Psalm 111 gives us to stage...Psalm 112 shows us the storyline when the people of God worship, study, and minister to the world with the Holy Spirit working THROUGH them.

- C. Here's what Psalm 112 says...**READ PSALM 112**...
- D. The Holy Spirit wants more access to your life...today and forever.
- E. The Holy Spirit Alive **ON** you lets people **KNOW** that Jesus is with you and wants to be with **THEM**.
- F. The Holy Spirit Alive **IN** you lets you be known by God and ultimately be **LED BY** God as He draws you to where He wants you.
- G. The Holy Spirit Alive **WITH** you gives you confidence to go into all circumstances of life trusting that God is already there.
- H. The Holy Spirit Alive **THROUGH** you, ministers to a hurting world in need of a Savior as you worship and know God more.
- I. Church, let's keep giving the Holy Spirit more access to our lives, our families, and our church so that God will be glorified!
- J. Let's pray...
- K. Loving God, You surround us in a warm embrace, and in your love teach us how to love others. In your Spirit, we ask for guidance and remind us always of your compassion for all humankind. Help us to keep our eyes and our lives focused on our perfect guide in Jesus Christ. Enable us to follow the teachings of Jesus above our own way and will. Help us, too, loving God, to work for growth in your kingdom. Sometimes it is difficult to speak a word of hope and help to those in need. With the encouragement of your Spirit, may we be faithful builders of your eternal kingdom. In the name of Christ our Lord, Model, Guide and Savior. Amen.
- L. Holy Communion...