

Introduction:

- I want to talk about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is so intimately involved in the birth and establishment of the early church that we cannot overlook His importance to the church today.
 - If the Holy Spirit was needed to birth the church, He is also needed to advance the church.
 - **The church that is apostolic in nature has a very unique relationship with the Holy Spirit. And this unique relationship is to be an ordinary way of life for believers. We become 'anointed trouble makers' right at the very gates of hell!**
- *"These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also."* (Ac 17:6) ESV
- Where in Brevard County is this happening? No where yet! But it is coming.
- *"In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade."* Message Bible He leads us in triumph. This is the way God leads...in triumph. There is no other way that God can lead us! How many want to know the Holy Spirit?
- *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."* (Acts 10:38, ESV)
- And Jesus left the group on the mount of Olives having ordered them (Acts 1:4) not to leave Jerusalem until they received the Promise of the Father. That's intense! He ordered them. I want to start this morning by attempting to answer this first question:

I. What Keeps People From Receiving the Holy Spirit? Short answer: Our issues

- A. Many of you are new to our church, new to the faith, new to the things of the Spirit and so you are either waiting to receive Him or standing off at a distance until you understand more. But let's go back to the question: What Keeps People From Receiving the Holy Spirit? Some people would say tongues...but I say it is our personal issues with tongues.
- B. Not knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord. Knowing Jesus/salvation is the first thing that prepares are heart to receive the Holy Spirit.
- C. Ignorance.
 1. *"And he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'"* (Acts 19:2, ESV)
 2. To be ignorant means:
 - a) No one has ever told you about the Holy Spirit.
 - b) Or, you choose to not know.
- D. Fear. So many have been wrongly taught about the Holy Spirit and tongues.
 1. Some people fear because they have been taught:
 - a) Tongues is of the devil. That is man's opinion not God's word.
 - b) Or that tongues is divisive. Tongues is divisive because people choose to remain ignorant or people are refusing to walk in love. Pentecostal churches are among the fastest growing churches in the world.
 2. Some people fear because they are ignorant: Did you know that there are three types of tongues that are spoken of in scripture?
 - a) Tongue of praise! It is what happens when one is baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 2; Acts 10:46. *"For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God..."* (Acts 10:46, ESV) Extolling / praising God.

- b) Tongues mixed with praises to God.
- c) Tongues as in our prayer language. *"For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit."* (1 Corinthians 14:2, ESV) 1 Cor 14:4...builds himself up. Jude 20 builds his faith up. Paul even says, *"For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying."* (1 Cor 14:14, NLT)
- d) Gift of tongues that requires an interpretation. 1 Cor 14:26; 1Cor 12:10
- 3. Some people fear because they think that they will lose control.
- 4. Some people fear because of ignorance. Most people are fearful of what they do not understand. And because of that they choose to remain ignorant.
- 5. Some people fear not knowing what they are saying. I.e. Just gibberish and they fear looking like and sounding like a fool.
- E. Doubt and unbelief.
 - 1. They doubt that it (it being tongues) is of God.
 - 2. They do not believe that it has any place in their life or is for them.
- F. Wrong understanding of how tongues actually happens. They are waiting for God to take their tongue and start shaking it in their mouth. Not gonna happen that way. The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet. Meaning you have to be the one who does the speaking.

II. How Does God Feel About Us Receiving His Spirit?

- A. He is quite excited about it! He is all for it! And if you believe Jesus is God, He ordered it!
 - 1. Holy Spirit is called the Promise of the Father.
 - 2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is found in all four Gospels (God's Word). Just like the death, burial, and resurrection are found in all four Gospels, so is the baptism in Holy Spirit. The Word confirms God's excitement!
 - a) Mt 3:11 *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* (Matthew 3:11, ESV)
 - b) Mark 1:8 *"he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."* (Mark 1:8, ESV)
 - c) Luke 3:16 *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* (Luke 3:16, ESV)
 - d) John 1:33 *"I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" (John 1:33, ESV)*
 - 3. Given by the Father. *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11:13, ESV)
 - 4. Sent by the Father. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."* (John 14:26, ESV)
- B. It was very important to the apostles.
 - 1. Peter, Acts 10:44-46. Peter preaches Christ, Holy Spirit falls and they speak in tongues.
 - 2. Philip - goes to Samaria. Preaches Christ—multitudes are saved.
 - 3. The apostles in Jerusalem send Peter and John (Acts 8:14-17) that they might receive the Holy Spirit. And they did

- C. Paul's ministry was about Christ and Holy Spirit. Acts 19:2-6
1. "And he said to them, *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."*" (Acts 19:2, ESV)
 2. He laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.
 3. Listen, the greatest gift a man can receive is the Holy Spirit Himself. Those who discover the values of His presence enter into realms of intimacy with God never previously considered possible.
- D. God never wants us alone! Listen to this promise: *"I will be with you"* God made this promise to all of His servants! Especially when what He was asking of them was impossible. So that: they would never be alone.
1. Moses Ex 3:12; Joshua 1:9; Gideon Judges 6:16; NT believers Mt 28:19

III. How Do I Receive Holy Spirit?

- A. First make sure you are saved. You have a relationship with Jesus.
- B. The same faith you received salvation with (Jesus as Lord and Savior) is the same faith you receive the Holy Spirit with.
- C. Jesus is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit. Mt. 3:11. With Holy Spirit and fire.
- D. Most often it happens with the laying on of hands. It is a point of contact, a release of anointing, and an act of faith by the one receiving.
- E. After I say, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" I am going to pray in tongues loud enough for you to hear so that you are not the only one in the room praying.
- F. At that point, You will receive and you will begin speaking things from you spirit that your mind does not understand and you will filled with joy and experience strengthened faith.

Conclusion:

- If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to carry out His mission, who are we to think that we don't need Him.

References to tongues: The 'no tongues' passage says that they 'saw'/witnessed something.

Acts 2 Tongues

Acts 8:17. No tongues

Acts 10:44 tongues

Acts 19:2 Tongues. Acts 19:2 (NLT): Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Good place to start!