

It's Your Turn

We are in a series about the Holy Spirit. About the moment in our lives, as believers, where we decided that we were going to be "All In." When we were no longer doing religion, doing church, or even doing Bible Study. There is a flashpoint moment when mature believers fully surrender to the Holy Spirit...anything, anywhere, any cost, anytime.

Jesus told the Disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for power from on high. When the tongues of fire fell on the disciples in the upper room, they began speaking in foreign languages that they did not know. Known languages, just not previously known to them.

The key to this moment was not that they were speaking in tongues.....It is WHAT they were speaking in tongues.

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV) 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Notice that it is the Holy Spirit who gave them utterance....essentially who was speaking through them. The Holy Spirit doing the work....spirit filled believers being used as tools under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This is important to understand. They were not speaking in tongues because they were doing it. They had a voice box and the Holy Spirit desired to use it. In that moment...for His purposes.

This is true every time the Holy Spirit works His gifts in any of us. He chooses who He will use, how He will use them, and which gift He will give them for the specific spiritual need He is meeting in that moment.

True gifts of the Holy Spirit are never given to benefit or bring attention to the person expressing the gift. So the disciples were reborn spiritually and in that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke through them in many different known languages.

This is where we often get sidetracked. We focus on the fact that these Spirit filled people were speaking in tongues...as if the act of speaking in tongues was the point. The reason they were speaking in tongues has nothing really to do with them.

Remember this occurred at Pentecost. 50 days after Passover the Jewish people come to Jerusalem to celebrate the day God gave the Torah to Moses on Mt Sinai.

The Feast itself is called the Feast of Weeks. It is a solemn feast and requires that all Jewish people travel to Jerusalem. They were to offer the firstfruit of their wheat harvest.

So, The city of Jerusalem is full of people....people from all over the known world. They had all come to the Feast. People who were Jewish and those who were Gentile converts. They came with firstfruits of the harvest.

On the Day of Pentecost or the Feast of Weeks, the "firstfruits" of the church were gathered by Christ. With the promised indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the first fruits of God's spiritual harvest under the New Covenant began.

Jesus had promised a New Covenant. A new Spiritual life. The believers in the upper room were evidence of the harvest to come. The Holy Spirit had come to us and would lead us home. Jesus, the bread of life, was bring new life and at the Feast of Wheat...they were the firstfruits offered to God. So Jesus kept his promise. Those in the upper room, about 120 of them, experienced a new birth....They had become spiritual beings having an earthly human experience. But when Christians speak of this moment....all they talk about is that fact that these people "spoke in tongues" as if speaking in tongues was the point. This is where many in the church I believe get off track. The point was not that they spoke in tongues....in fact speaking in tongues was just a means to an end...it really wasn't the point at all.

Last week we spoke about the Holy Spirit and how He always glorifies Jesus and not Himself. Everything He does is laser focused on glorifying Jesus. Anytime you see the Holy Spirit do anything....give gifts, grow fruit, teach truth, convict us of our sins...you can know that the point is to glorify Jesus.

I will repeat this over and over in this series. The Holy Spirit never draws attention to Himself. He doesn't give spiritual gifts (healing, discernment, prophecy, tongues, and others) so you can focus on those things or claim to own them. They are always given to allow you and others to bring glory to Jesus.

When Spirit led believers focus on the gift...they miss the point. The gift is never....never...never the point. When people say, come look at me I have the gift of healing, or the gift of prophecy, or the gift of tongues....look at how Spirit filled I am. I can assure you, you can confidently stay home.

Spirit filled people. People truly surrendered to the Holy Spirit would never make the Holy Spirit or the gifts of the Spirit the main point. The Holy Spirit would not allow it.

If you want to discern if a gift is truly of the Holy Spirit, ask yourself Who is being glorified here? If it is the Holy Spirit Himself, the person, or the gift itself...you can dismiss it. True works, gifts and actions of the Holy Spirit always....always....always Glorify Jesus.

It is simple really. The Holy Spirit in you will discern these things for you. Your heart will be drawn to the true actions of the Spirit. Your mind...your curiosity... will be drawn to those that are not.

So at Pentecost the Spirit fell upon the disciples in the upper room. Why did they speak in tongues? The Holy Spirit could have had all of them prophecy and foretell the future....He could have given them all healing powers to cure sickness....yet He chose to have them speak in tongues. Why? Because right outside the room....in the streets were people from many nations and many tongues, who needed to hear about Jesus...about God.

Acts 2:11 (ESV) 11 Both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Telling the Mighty Works of God....bingo...that is what the Holy Spirit does! The Holy Spirit allowed these now spiritually born people to become His voice box....to declare to people in a language that they would understand....the mighty works of God. There is only one reason that they spoke in tongues...because people outside needed to hear the message of the Holy Spirit in their language.

Acts 2:5-8 (ESV) 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished,

saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?"

The Holy Spirit was drawing hearts to Him. By personalizing the message in each of their own language...He had their full attention. But something else interesting happened here.

When the Holy Spirit moves in the midst of fallen people...there is always one of two responses. People draw near to Him or people mock Him.

Acts 2:12-13 (ESV) 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

The stage was now set..by the Holy Spirit....for the most incredible first harvest...and He would use Peter to bring glory to Jesus....and to reach those who would listen.

Acts 2:22-25 (ESV) 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Peter tells them....you crucified Jesus...I may have denied Him three times...but you murdered Him. Just to be sure they understand him....the Holy Spirit has Peter repeat it.

Acts 2:36 (ESV) 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Notice something here as well. The normal flesh response here is "no way...I didn't do that...the Roman did...wasn't me."

But for those the Holy Spirit was drawing in...those He was convicting...this message brought with it...a reality of truth.

The Holy Spirit had prepared their hearts to receive what their mind...their flesh...would reject. That is why I say that I have never saved anyone.

John 6:44 (ESV) 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

How does the work of the Father get done in the New Covenant? The Holy Spirit.

John 16:8-9 (ESV) 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

1 Corinthians 12:3 (ESV) 3 No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

So the Holy Spirit...speaking through Peter...tells them...

Let all the house of Israel....All the Jewish People know....for certain The man YOU crucified...Jesus... God made Him Lord and Christ No doubt He was the Messiah...you guys blew it.

What would be your response?

In our flesh...we say things like.... He should have made it more clear who He was.. How were we supposed to know? Pilate told us to...we were just following orders
Have you ever heard the German people try to explain how the Holocaust happened? Or read the response of Northern and Southern Slave Owners try to explain what happened? Or our nation try to explain what happened to the American Indians?

They all had excuses that point anywhere but at themselves. In our flesh we are great at making excuses or blaming others....but when the Holy Spirit is present and leading....there is only one response.

Acts 2:37 (ESV) 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart,

They were cut to the heart.... That is the only place the Holy Spirit really has an effect We want to process Him in our mind... He wants to transform our heart...

They heard the truth... But this time the Holy Spirit made sure... That they just didn't hear it in their head... That they just didn't get it in their heart... This truth CUT their heart.

Acts 2:37 (ESV) 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Interesting...they said to PETER and the other disciples...what shall we do? Notice that the Holy Spirit not only spoke through Peter....but chose Peter to speak for Him. Peter...they had heard about him....He denied Jesus...they all saw it or heard about it. They knew that he knew about forgiveness. Of the disciples...Peter was the one who knew most intimately what it meant to repent and be forgiven. The Holy Spirit doesn't just pick the message...He always picks the perfect messenger.

What shall we do? Don't miss the emotion in that question What they are really asking...Is there any hope for us? Are we doomed.... We murdered the Messiah...surely that is an unforgivable sin
Imagine that moment.... When you realize that everything you have been doing... has been against the desires of God. God was doing something amazing in their midst.. And they...missed it. Not only did they miss it...they tried to stop what God was doing Their lives had been lived against the purposes of God

And now the Holy Spirit is revealing that truth to them.... The truth cuts like a knife. There was nothing they could do..it was a total eclipse of the heart

Have you been there? I have...I remember the day that I realized... I was fighting against God... That my kingdom could not coexist with His That the worship of me...not only displeased Him... But that it put me as one of His enemies.

Acts 2:38 (ESV) 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Peter made it simple...3 steps.... Repent...Be baptized...receive the Holy Spirit.

Nothing about saying a prayer to invite Jesus into your heart Nothing about going to a bunch of classes... Nothing about coming going to church first Doesn't mention cleaning up first Just 3 simple steps: Repent, Be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.

Notice that the first two are actions on your part The third is a promise. You repent...You get baptized...actions steps Then the promise... You WILL receive the Holy Spirit. Not you might...you could...some will... No..it is certain...you WILL

Simple but we have a problem...

Now in the Western Church we approach these things intellectually Repent...be baptized...receive the Holy Spirit...

Can I be a Christian without being baptized? Can I be a Christian without repenting? Can I be a Christian without receiving the Holy Spirit? Now on the Baptism thing...do I have to go under water? what if I just sit down in some water? Suppose I don't go all the way under Do I have to do that in public?

Now receiving the Holy Spirit... Is the Holy Spirit in me already to make me repent? When does that happen?

Everytime I hear these kinds of questions.... I always want to ask a question back....."why do you ask?" Because they did not ask... They just obeyed When they heard that Jesus died on the cross for their sins...they only asked one question What shall we do?

They didn't debate it...they didn't discuss it....what they did was.... They repented...they got baptized... and they received the Holy Spirit They Just Did it before Nike even branded it.

We would rather intellecualize it...speculate and ask a bunch of questions Did they really have to get baptized? Do you get the Holy Spirit on your way into the water? When you are under water? as you come up from the water.... What if you tripped on the way in and went under...are you baptized?

The early believers didn't ask questions... They didn't care when exactly they received the Holy Spirit... They didn't care how big the crowd was that was watching... They didn't dare think about skipping baptism They didn't argue about these things...look at what they did.

Acts 2:39-41 (ESV) 341 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Look at the Key word here....SO SO...therefore...because of what was just said.... They received the Word...they repented... They were Baptized....and guess what happened next?

3000 souls were added to the church Note souls were added... Spiritual souls...The Holy Spirit was given to 3000 people. 3000 people now born in the Spirit

But we are so messed up as a Western Church Now days people teach that you can become a Christian... Without repenting....and without the Holy Spirit.

How many times do you hear...just say a prayer and receive Jesus You can keep living your life... And you will not go to Hell

The only prayer that saves you...is one of repentance. A desperate cry from your soul.... Begging Jesus to save you.... So the first century audience....repented...

This is the scary part..I am so afraid so many have skipped this step. When the Gospel is proclaimed....by the Holy Spirit...and through God's people....many if not most will reject it. Every time I preach the true gospel...some people leave. Some walk out while I am talking...others check out while I am talking...I can see it.

People don't hear what they want to hear...So they leave until they find a church...that will make them feel good while they keep their sin. There are tons of churchessadly, those church are easy to fine....some just go across the street.

Most pastors know that if you demand repentance...it is hard to grow a church...at least a church the way American envisions one.

I am very concerned that many churches are full of people who have been taught a lie...and believe that they are saved...when they are not. Their pastors were instructed by God to teach the Word and the Word only...in season and out of season....and they have catered to the whims of the people. They have allowed their church to run by the seeker rather than the Holy Spirit. They are called churches...but they are not churches of Jesus Christ. They preach a Gospel of comfort....not repentance.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV) 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

The Truth: Repent..Be Baptized....Receive the Holy Spirit. So they repented...not so much now.. Today, Jesus says "Follow Me" and we look at Him and say.... "No...Jesus...you follow me"

And the church says.....That's a good idea... That way you can be happy...you can keep going where you are going... You don't get upset with the church...the church will grow...just take Jesus with you You may need him...particularly toward the end Besides God just wants you to be happy God wants you to be rich...

Guys...that is not the message of this Book...We were never told to have Jesus follow us on our path...that is a lie...straight from Hell...Aimed at misleading people into believing that they are saved. That is not repentance...It is not following Jesus Do you know what defines those who follow Jesus? They actually follow Him.

I want to follow you now... I was doing these things.. But now I see a better way of life... I don't want to just have Jesus with me... I want to become like Jesus. Jesus...yes I will follow you... I will turn around from the mess I am in and where I am going

Let me share with you something important about repentance. It only occurs fully i the safety of love. When you experience the love of the Holy Spirit....you feel a supernatural peace....an overwhelming sense of acceptance....it is often the first time we have every fully experienced the unconditional love of God.That love...creates the safe place....for repentance. God's overwhelming love is the safety net of our confessions. If you skip the stage of repenting...you miss out on the incredible acceptance of Christ and the full sense of the forgiveness of your sins. It is in repentance that you become fully exposed...totally vulnerable....and yet still fully embraced and accepted.

I own all the sins that I have done. I have been worshiping me and using you. I have done some horrible things. I have hurt others, hurt myself, and hurt your heart God. I own it all. No one else did it, no circumstances are to blame for it, there are no excuses...I am selfish, self-centered, arrogant, prideful and have been your enemy all of my life.

I deserve to go to Hell. If I were you God, I would have already sent me there. I have worshiped me...I have worshiped comfort....I have worshiped public opinion...I have worshiped money...I have worshiped fame. I have bowed down to lots of altars...but never yours God.

Repenting means to fully own what you have done and why you have done it. No excuses. You hate what your sin has done...and you have to get it out of you like a cancer.

When I tell people that they have cancer...there are always two questions. What is it going to do to me and how do we get rid of it?

Repentance it to come to that flash point moment...when the Holy Spirit reveals the truth about your situation and your future....You have a cancer of sin...you were born with it....it is fatal.

But there is one cure. You can be born again....you can receive the Holy Spirit and be born again...This time empowered with the cure for your sin. No longer terminal...now eternal.

How...Repent!

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you become ALL IN. Tell Him... I want to be Holy...like Jesus. I don't just hate the punishment of sin... I hate sin itself...I want to stop... I want to live like Jesus...I want to pursue holiness

Teach that you can be a follower of Jesus Christ.... Without actually following Him It makes no sense to me... Just receive Jesus..say this prayer..He will keep you from Hell Just take Jesus with you... Jesus warned us about this.... The scariest verse in the Bible.

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV) 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

We will get back to this verse in this series. But for now, notice something very important....these people claimed to follow Jesus...they seemed to have gifts of the Spirit....They seemed to have God's power in them....but they never knew Him. In fact, Jesus says that they were workers of lawlessness. Do get wowed with the supernatural as if all things supernatural are from God. Satan is a deceiver.

2 Corinthians 11:12-14 (ESV) 12 And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

There is only one way to discern the things of God....Ask the Holy Spirit....He reveals all truth and exposes all lies.

Jesus offers a new way of life.... You want to make sure you know me? Follow me..I have a better way of living.. I can bring you fulfilment... Everything about me is better than anything about you I am what you have been looking for your whole life... That emptiness you feel....I am the only One who can fill it Everything else will fall short.

I am an amazing treasure...worth all that you have... Don't you want to be with me forever? Come follow me.

NO one can be a follower of Christ.... Without first having the flash point of Repentance.. That moment where the Holy Spirit leads you to the truth about yourself That moment where He uses the truth to cut you to the heart

Where you and your sin are disgusting And Jesus and His holiness are everything And that flash point...that revelation by the Holy Spirit changes everything.

And you..like those in the First Century...and millions since then... turn to God and say...what am I to do? The answer has never changed..since the day Peter said it first....REPENT

I agree with God...I don't just hate the penalty of sin... I hate sin..I hate sin itself.. I want to stop lying..I want to stop lusting.. I want to stop greed....I hate my selfishness I want those things removed from my life

I hate what it does to me... I hate what it does to others. I hate the sin in this world... I want to live without greed...hatred or bitterness.

So we cry out to God...Please Give me your Spirit... Not so I can avoid hell... But because I want to live in Christ I want to die to my old self..and live the life Christ promises me. I want to repent...to turn around and follow Jesus. I want to be pure I actually want to be Holy I want to be like Jesus....

I need the Holy Spirit. God...please.... Put your Spirit in me.... Please let Him keep changing me...transforming me...molding me... Have thine own way Lord... You are the Potter I am the clay.

One day...I have to give an account to God as your leader I think about that all the time.

I don't want to stand before Jesus...and say Hey you see REMNANT? You see those 3,000 people? They sort of love you...some repented... Some really wanted to change... Some even seemed to have the Holy Spirit..

A lot of them allowed us to baptized them.. Some contributed to your mission.. A lot of them came to church...after football season... Really God...most of them..made 2 out of 4 weekends. They sort of prioritized you When it fit into their schedule

You said follow me...repent..be baptized.. and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.. Many decided to just take you with them.. to change on Sundays... Here is REMNANT God...lots of them...look at how we have grown.

No I want to stand in front of God... And say...Look God at REMNANT You decided how big we would be...but they are all in..

They gave you not only their first fruits..their first 10%...some gave 20 some even 50% They invested all they had...because they love you More than their money More than anything else. We didn't even have to pass the plate...they just did it.

God look at how they love you.. They are crazy about you God.. You saw the way they lived their lives You saw how much they sacrificed... We partnered together to help each other on mission

They would do anything for you.. They Repented....They were Baptized...the Received the Holy Spirit.

They didn't argue about it...they just did what you said. They pursued holiness...they hated sin...they pursued the mind of Christ... They committed to following Jesus...and then when they received your Spirit...

They actually followed Him... And God He led us to this moment...standing in front of your throne...God please look at the people of REMNANT

They are an unstoppable force... Jesus look at the church you built. Thank you Jesus for giving me the awesome privilege of in some way contributing to what you were doing through these amazing people. That is what I desire for each one of us... And for this church..

So each week I pray..God please use me to grow people who are TRULY following you. I don't really care about how big we are...you can handle that...I care about how pure we are. I don't care how many people are in these seats...I care about how deep the roots are of those who are here. I don't care about how much money is given...I care about how much pride is surrendered. God if you will have us...we will be the Remnant that is ALL IN. Let's pray.