

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Pastor David Uth

Passage: Acts 2:1-13

1When 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. **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? **9**Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, **11**both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” **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.”

Background

Helper. Comforter. Presence. Guide. Power. We may know the words often used to describe the Holy Spirit, but, for many of us, we still have unanswered questions like: Who exactly is the Holy Spirit? What role does the Holy Spirit play in the life of believers? How does the Holy Spirit work in my own life? Over the course of this summer, we will be studying God’s Word for a clearer and more personal understanding of the Holy Spirit. Today, on this Pentecost Sunday, Pastor David will guide us through multiple passages throughout the Scripture to reveal the primary purpose of the Holy Spirit, which is most clearly evidenced on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2!

Service Notes

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- In your church experiences, how much teaching or conversation have you encountered on the work of the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit get “overlooked” at times when we speak about God?

Talk it Over

- **Read Numbers 11:24-30 and Joel 2:28-29.** In what ways do we see the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) “working” in the Old Testament? What does the Old Testament teach us about God’s presence with His people? What can we learn from some of the examples Pastor David shared? In these two specific passages, what does Moses hope for and Joel look forward to? How do these verses help explain what happened in Acts 2?
- **Read Acts 2:1-13.** Where were the disciples in this passage? Why were they there (see Acts 1)? What were the physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit’s “arrival” in this passage? What did the disciples do? Why were the people fascinated? Although some people mocked the disciples as drunkards, what were other people hearing them speak? What does this teach us about the purpose of the Holy Spirit’s coming on this day? How do we see Acts 1:8 coming to fulfillment?
- **Read Acts 2:14-41.** Peter stood up and delivered a mighty testimony of the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. There were no screens, music, lights or microphones and God moved in a powerful way. How does Peter explain the phenomenon the people are experiencing (vs. 14-21)? How does Peter describe who Jesus is and what He came to do (vs. 22-36)? How do the people respond and what is the result? What can we learn about the purpose of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives from this passage?

Live it Out

- The Holy Spirit has always worked in the lives of God’s people to accomplish God’s plans and purposes. How should this *reality* change the way you wake up and live tomorrow?