

SESSION 1: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Watch the video or read the script together as a group; then discuss the following questions. Keep in mind the questions are meant to prompt conversation, so don't feel the need to use or discuss every question.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Joel 2:28; John 14:16-18; Galatians 5:22-25

QUESTIONS

1. Read Joel 2:28 and John 14:16-18. Discuss the importance of these promises about the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
2. Discuss the importance of Pentecost for the first disciples, for the church, for you.
3. Jesus has given us each a calling for our lives. What does the Holy Spirit provide us with to fulfill this calling?
4. How do we learn from the Holy Spirit? How does He *teach all things and bring Christ's teaching to remembrance* in your life?
5. Walking in the Spirit implies action and forward motion. Discuss the occasions in Acts where the apostles were guided by the Spirit (below). How do you think this happened for them? How does it happen for you?
 - a. Acts 8:29
 - b. Acts: 10:19
 - c. Acts 11: 11-13
 - d. Acts 13:2-5
 - e. Acts 16:6-8
6. Looking back, where do you see the Holy Spirit working in the church throughout history? Where have you seen the Spirit working in your life?

[illegible]

SCRIPT & ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

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Focusing our attention on the Holy Spirit this week, we'll delve into all the things that the Holy Spirit can enable us to do, including giving us the boldness to do the work of the Lord.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost provided the church with the ability to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ had died for the sins of mankind. Through His resurrection, salvation was made available to all. The prophet Joel prophesied that God would pour out His Spirit on all mankind. (Joel 2:28) Therefore, all who have decided to enter into fellowship with God can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which empowers them to fulfill their calling within the church of Christ.

Jesus made a number of promises concerning the Holy Spirit:

- In John 14:26 we read that He will *teach all things and bring Christ's teaching to remembrance.*
- In John 15:26 the Holy Spirit is described as *the Spirit of truth who will testify of Christ.* Here Christ also refers to the disciples' calling to testify of Him.
- In Acts 1:8 the Spirit is described as the source of power by which the disciples will fulfill their calling to be witnesses of Christ *in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

The power Jesus mentioned in Acts 1:8 refers to the courage needed to fulfill the Great Commission. No doubt - the disciples were equipped to be witnesses from their personal time with Jesus. However, with Jesus in heaven, He knew that the disciples would need special help in order to fulfill the mission of the Church. So from these passages we can tell that Jesus intended that they would continue to learn from the Holy Spirit after His ascension and also keep in mind everything they'd learned from the Lord firsthand.

After waiting in Jerusalem, as they were instructed to do, the Holy Spirit arrived on Pentecost and the disciples stepped forward and proclaimed the Gospel *"in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The mission of the church has been passed down to the believers of today thanks to the apostles who showed us how to walk in the Spirit. By doing so, the church continues to move forward. It's amazing to think that the Holy Spirit still works today in the same way He did thousands of years ago. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit teaches us, reminds us, and

provides the power for us to break free from our insecurities so that we can fulfill our calling.

By choosing to walk in the Spirit:

- We make an intentional decision to live a life of fellowship with God and the assembly of believers.
- We make the decision to listen to God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to use that Word to change our nature into that of Jesus.
- We love our neighbors and reflect Jesus' love for all people.
- We proclaim the Gospel to our fellow man.
- We desire and work for peace.

We all play a role in the mission of the church and we fulfill that calling by engaging in a relationship with the Holy Spirit, and utilizing the gifts God has given us. He will provide you and me with the power we need each step of our walk.