

Date: March 3rd 2024

Location: Solomon's Porch Hong Kong

Focus: Holy Spirit

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Title: Holy Spirit, I Need You

INTRODUCTION

- Theme: O Come Holy Spirit
 - For what purpose?

Connect:

- "...praying to him when the limitations of our power clash with the greatness asked of us. We must learn to understand that we have such a capacity and that God desires to fill up that capacity"

Interrogative: What should our lives look like if we say we love God? If we say we Follow Jesus? If we say His Spirit is in us?

- What greatness is God asking of you?
- Have you made your capacity a reason to not step out in faith?
- You've looked at your limitations but have yet to surrender to God's capacity and ability to be glorified through those limitations

Biblical Truth: You cannot be and do what God has called you to be and do without the Holy Spirit

- SP Mission: To know Him. To be like Him. To make Him known
- It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that enables us to know Him. To be like Him. And make Him Known.

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

Prayer

SCRIPTURE STUDY

- **Context:**

- Book of Acts:
 - The emphasis of Acts is the work of God through the Holy Spirit in the lives of people who devoted themselves to following Jesus. What we see is the power of the Holy Spirit at work through individuals like you and I.
 - Imperfect but forgiven, ordinary individuals following Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Surrounding Verses:
 - Jesus had been crucified, died, and buried and resurrected. He spends forty days among them as he continues to speak concerning the kingdom of God.
 - "...after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit..." v:2
 - The work of the Holy Spirit was evident in the life of Jesus from his baptism where the Spirit of God descended and rested on him, as the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted, to Jesus' awareness of the Spirit being upon him for the work of ministry to "proclaim good news to the poor. To proclaim liberty to the captives. Recovering of sight to the blind. Set at liberty those who are oppressed."
 - However, he must ascend to the Father. So Jesus prepares to leave his disciples once again. He gathers his disciples one last time and gives them these final words. These final instructions.
 - He gives them their mission, and the ability to fulfill that mission.

- **Scripture Reading:** Acts 1:4-8 (ESV)

- **Scripture in Focus:**

- V:4-5 "...wait for the promise of the Father..."
 - The Father's Promise
- V:6-7 "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority"
 - The Father's Authority
- V:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"
 - The Father's Empowerment
- V:8 "You will be my witnesses..."
 - The Father's Commission

ESSENTIALS

1. The Father's Promise

2. The Father's Authority

3. The Father's Empowerment

4. The Father's Commission

1. Essential: The Father's Promise

a. Scripture: V:4-5

- i. V: 4 Orders them not to depart but to wait. Wait for what? For the promise of the Father
- ii. V: 5 What is the Father's Promise? The baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus had been preparing his disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This wasn't the first mention of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
 1. John 14:16/26 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever...But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name..."
- iii. What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?
 1. Who the Holy Spirit is not
 - a. He is not a force, an impersonal force or abstract energy that can be manipulated
 2. Who the Holy Spirit is
 - a. "He is a person, He is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe"
 3. The admitted struggle: "Rarely does a Christian struggle to think of God as Father. And to envision God as Son is not a problem for many. These personal names come easily to us because our lives and relationships are inescapably intertwined with fathers and sons here on earth. But God as the Holy Spirit is often a different matter. God the father makes perfectly good sense to me, and God the Son I can quite understand; but the Holy Spirit is a gray, oblong blur."
 - a. In our struggle to understand it is often easier to think of the Holy Spirit as a force/abstract energy
 4. The Holy Spirit's Characteristics of a Person
 - a. Concerning will he sovereignty distributes gifts as he wills
 - b. Concerning Emotions/feelings When we sin, the Holy Spirit is grieved
 - c. Concerning intellect he knows our thoughts and knows our weaknesses and helps us

- d. Concerning offense we can sin against the Holy Spirit

Transition: The Holy Spirit is a person, He is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe. That is the Father's promise.

b. Illustration:

- i. My first experience of grieving the Holy Spirit and experiencing conviction and mourning for my sin. I could feel the sadness of God concerning my sin. I saw sin as more than just a behavioral issue but a relational matter. It was also the Holy Spirit's gentleness that brought me back from a place of failure to a place of intimacy with God.

c. Application: (Mind, Heart, Action)

- i. Renewed Mind: The Holy Spirit is someone that God the Father wants us to have, He does not withhold the Holy Spirit from us, but longs for us to be in relationship with the Holy Spirit and not just have him as an afterthought. He is not a force or abstract energy.
- ii. Examined Heart: Does the Holy Spirit have me? We often want the experience of the Holy Spirit without the transformation.
 - 1. Ex: I want to experience the love of God but I don't want that love to transform me to love others (grace, mercy...)
- iii. Action Steps: The Holy Spirit is often working internally in our lives, he is working in our being, in who we are becoming. Learn to dialogue and ask questions. Holy Spirit I want to know you more, show me how I can know you more? (Wait: we often want to rush through or are easily distracted or discouraged)

2. Essential: The Father's Authority

a. Scripture: V: 6-7

- i. V: 6 What do the disciples ask? Is this the time you will restore the kingdom to Israel? The disciples longed for the time when God would restore the kingdom of Israel. Israel was an oppressed people living under Roman occupation. They longed for God's restoration of Israel. This was ingrained in Jewish culture to long for Israel's restoration. To be a free people and bring peace. Their focus was set on Israel. The kingdom of Israel.
- ii. V: 7 Jesus' response
 - 1. It is not for you to know

- a. Be aware of anyone who would claim to know. Many people have been led astray by following people who claimed to know when Jesus would return.
- 2. Times and Seasons
 - a. Chronos & Kairos
 - i. Chronos: Is quantitative, it can be measured, it is a specific amount of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, years)
 - ii. Kairos: Is qualitative, it is about opportune time, moments, a window of time
 - b. are under the Father's authority
 - i. Ultimate authority belongs to God the Father
 - ii. We don't know the times and seasons but we can have peace in knowing they are under God's authority.

b. Illustration:

- i. Azaiah (Chronos & kairos)
 - 1. It is part of the human struggle to look back on all the missed times and seasons of life that we didn't know would be our last or what they would become.

c. Application:

- i. Kingdom Focused
 - 1. Have I been more concerned or lost in building my own kingdom? We can get our own desires and ambitions get in the way of building our own kingdom that we lose sight of God's kingdom. Is there a need to recenter your life towards God's kingdom?
- ii. Surrender Knowing
 - 1. We can get lost in desiring control and knowing that it hinders our ability to move forward in our lives, it hinders our ability to live fully and trust in God. When we enter into a place of trust with God we receive his love, his grace, his strength to carry us through the unknowns in our lives.
- iii. Times and Seasons
 - 1. Make the most of the times and seasons of your life with a kingdom perspective
 - a. Brother's Passing
 - b. I often think about this when it comes to sharing the gospel with family and friends. I've had how long to share the gospel with them? I had how many moments? This is not to create guilt but to build a sense of urgency in our lives to share the

gospel and keep our eyes focused on the kingdom of God.

iv. God's authority

1. "I don't know what my future holds. But I know who holds my future."
2. Are you in a power struggle with God? With his authority over your life?

***Worship Team**

Transition: Our lives are part of a greater story, we all have our individual stories but they are all part of a greater story. God's story of redemption, restoration, and reconciliation. God invites us to partner with him to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God. He promises us the Holy Spirit as our Help.

Conclusion:

- Conclusion/Biblical Truth: The power we need cannot be humanly orchestrated, our own efforts will only take us so far. We must arrive at the place of surrender that leads us into obedience where we say, Father, I cannot be and do what you have called me to be and do without your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit I need you.

COMMUNION

• **Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- "Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him and his death. The Lord's supper is a celebration of the presence of God in our midst; bringing us into communion with God and with one another; feeding and nourishing our souls. It also anticipates the day when we will eat and drink with Christ in his Father's kingdom."
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BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace, shalom, from this day forward

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen

Notes/Resources

- The New City Catechism: Devotional by Tim Keller & Collin Hansen
- Introducing Christian Doctrine 2nd Edition by Millard Erickson
- Basic. Who is God? Follower's Guide by Francis Chan & Mark Beuving
- The Violence of Love by Oscar Romero
- <https://www.acalltoexcellence.com/chronos-vs-kairos/>