

THREE GUARANTEES TO EXPECT WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE

Good morning Life Fellowship. Let's turn in our Bibles to Acts Chapter 2 where we will be this morning. Maybe you are wondering why I am sitting down this morning. Well, we are family here so I will be honest with you and tell you that I am not feeling the greatest right now. But I am here and that is all that matters. If you see me lagging a bit, just pray a little extra for me, okay? I would appreciate the prayers.

We are in a series called 'Origins - The Church As It Should Be,' and we are getting into Acts Chapter 2 today. And this is where we are starting to see some real action happening. I know many of you have read Acts Chapter 2 before and you are thinking, '*Oh boy, we are talking about tongues today. Yeah, man.*' This can be some real fun, some controversial stuff. But let me tell you something, we are not going to get into all of the controversial things, like whether tongues is for today or not. Those are worthy questions to discuss, but this passage is not necessarily about that.

So what we are going to do is talk about one of these major pivotal points in regard to church history, and I would even say in regard to human history. The greatest pivotal point of all human history where it changed literally the trajectory of the history of the world was the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And this moment right here found in Acts Chapter 2, the coming of the Holy Spirit, is another one of those pivotal moments that changed the way you and I truly experience God.

One of the things that we know, and we talked about this two weeks ago, is that Jesus was already declaring that the Holy Spirit was going to come. He said this all throughout His ministry, both pre and post resurrection. We are going to look at some verses later on about this. This was even predicted by prophets Joel, Ezekiel and Zachariah. They foretold that the Holy Spirit was going to come and He was going to do something amazing.

So this is one of those things that has been anticipated, not just since Jesus was around, but this has been anticipated for hundreds of years. The reason why there is anticipation is because we don't know what it is going to look like, and we don't know what it is going to be. It is like when you are a brand new first time parent and you are wondering how this child is going to change your life, and you have no idea, right? Or maybe it is the anticipation for your wedding, or the anticipation of buying a new car. For me it is the anticipation of one day going to Star Wars World; that is my anticipation right now. I am a Star Wars geek, and they are building some kind of Star Wars thing down in Disney World and I am excited about going. That is one of the things that is on my bucket list, because I want to go to Star Wars World and experience it. So I am anticipating this.

The Old Testament speaks of the Holy Spirit coming, Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit coming, and now we are going to read about it. This is the moment, this is the

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event of when the Holy Spirit came and changed everything. So before we begin talking about the Holy Spirit we need to do a quick debrief. When we talk about the Holy Spirit, whether you are new to the church, or whether you have been coming to church for decades, we need to understand that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. And probably the least understood, or the most confusing of the three is the Holy Spirit.

One of the things we are going to try to do, and this is not going to be a Pneumatology class today where we are going to study the doctrines of the Holy Spirit, but we are going to show the meaningfulness of it, and what it really says about the Holy Spirit. So this morning we are going to talk about three guarantees that we can expect when the Holy Spirit comes. Three guarantees that we can expect when the Holy Spirit comes. Three guarantees of what started in Acts Chapter 2 and that is still going on today.

So let's read Acts Chapter 2 beginning in verse 1. *“When the day of Pentecost arrives, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Juda and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes.”

This is why I went to seminary, so I could pronounce all of these names, okay? It was worth the money. *(Laughter.)* So there are a lot of people from a lot of different places that are in Jerusalem at this time because of Pentecost, both Jews and proselytes. And that is Jews, ethnic Jews, and then proselytes are the Gentile believers who have adopted the Jewish faith.

“Cretans and Arabians - we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’”

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So these verses describe the coming of the Holy Spirit. And whenever you are reading passages of Scripture like this, that you want to study and learn about, it is always important to ask questions. Sometimes we come to God's Word and we read it and it is like we are just collecting information, but we don't really ask questions. And it is because if you grew up in the church you were taught not to question the Bible. To question the Bible was bad. Now sometimes we don't even know what to ask, and if we don't ask the right questions we miss the details that tell us something. And there are some details in this passage that for us the radar should go off and make us ask questions.

The first question I see is - the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost; is that significant? And yes, that is significant. The other thing we might question about is the little flames of fire that appear over their heads when the Holy Spirit came. Why were there little flames of fire? And then you have this whole thing of speaking in tongues. People were hearing their own language from people who had not been able to speak their language before. So there is something supernatural going on right here. Why is this happening? So we have to answer these questions. What was God saying through these events?

Well, let's look at the first guarantee and that is when we go back to the mention of Pentecost in verse 1. The first guarantee we see is the guarantee of God's Word proclaimed. When the Holy Spirit comes, it is going to be a guarantee of God's Word proclaimed. Look what it says again: "***When the day of Pentecost arrives, they were all together in one place.***"

Now what is Pentecost? Well, Pentecost is 50 days after Passover. In the Old Testament we would call this the Feast of Weeks, which was a high Jewish festival where many people would travel to Jerusalem. In fact what most people would do, and notice there were a lot of travelers there, they would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Most of the Jews would do this at least once in their lifetime.

So they would come to Passover, and they would most usually stay for the seven weeks of the Feast of Weeks Festival until Pentecost. They would live in Jerusalem or around Jerusalem for about seven weeks. What this means, and this is important for next week when Pastor Dan will be preaching, is that most of the Jews and the proselytes that are here and that experience the Holy Spirit's arrival, were also most likely present during the crucifixion of Jesus. And that is significant.

Why would the Holy Spirit come during the Feast of Weeks? It was because Jewish tradition teaches us that God gave to Moses the Ten Commandments and the Law on this day. Luke is connecting the dots from the Old Testament and the New Testament. Let's look again at verse 2, "***And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.***"

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Notice you have a loud noise, you have wind and you have fire. All three of those elements were also present on Mount Sinai; and that is significant. So there is this Holy Spirit moment that is reflected in Mount Sinai. What is God doing? God is connecting the dots between His Word and His Spirit and that is significant. Because for most of us when it comes to things that we call of the Holy Spirit or of God's Word, we divide the two. We talk about the Holy Spirit as something that we experience, and it is emotion, but when it comes to God's Word we think more of intellect and knowledge.

Some of us just love it when we can raise our hands and worship and just feel the Spirit of God when we hear a really deep sermon. But the Bible never makes that distinction. In fact Jesus reinforces the idea that the Holy Spirit is most active in pointing people to God's Word. I want you to see some verses this morning, and this is from Jesus' Upper Room discourse.

The first verse is found in John Chapter 14 and verse 26: ***“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.”*** Now listen to John Chapter 15 and verse 26: ***“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”***

What is He saying? The Spirit of truth, not the Spirit of emotion, is going to point the disciples to His Word. Listen to this next verse found in John Chapter 16 and verse 13: ***“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.”*** Listen, God sent His Spirit so does He want us to feel something? Absolutely. The Holy Spirit has come to give us an experience, but He wants us to feel something about His truth, and that's the emotion.

We even see this in Acts Chapter 2 and verse 3 where it says, ***“And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.”*** What does that mean? Those words 'tongues of fire' literally is the same word that is used in the next couple of verses talking about languages. In fact this is the Greek word *glossa*, and it is where we get the word glossary from. It means 'a known language.'

It is never used to describe actual fire, except in this passage. So that again should raise the question - why would Luke use 'tongues of fire' to describe this? I believe that Luke is saying that even in our experiences God is saying something to us. God wants us to experience something. And then when we experience something, how do we interpret our experiences, because some of you right now are going through some difficult times. Some of you are experiencing some major disappointments, or major suffering. Or maybe you are just in a valley emotionally, or there is turmoil in your family.

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Others of you may think that everything is going right and there are some great things happening. And what we have to understand is that in every experience that we go through in life God is speaking to us. So we need to learn to interpret the experiences through His word. How do we know what God is saying when we go through things? We need to go to God's Word so He can connect the dots for us and let us know what He is doing.

If we divorce the experience of the Holy Spirit from God's Holy Word, we will miss what God is trying to say to us every single day. God is a God who is active, and He is speaking, and He still wants to communicate with us every single day. That is why He has given us His Holy Spirit. And we have to address this as either intellectual or emotional. It is either mind or heart. It is either exciting or cerebral. It is either deep or it's moving. God never makes that distinction when it comes to when the Holy Spirit moves.

When I was younger, and I don't know how many of you are like this, but I used to hate when my food would touch. Anyone else like that? If my food touched it was like it was tainted and I wanted to throw it out. Growing up I just could not stand my food to touch. And the way my dad would eat, and maybe this is just a farmer thing because he was from western New York where all the Rudolph clan were farmers, but the way my dad, and other farmers would eat was to make every meal into a Shepherd pie. They would just mix everything together, right? It didn't matter how many dishes were on the table, the food was all going to land in one mushy pile on their plates.

And when I was younger I thought that was so gross, so disgusting. But then I got older and I realized that there are different layers of flavor in combining food. There really is no greater bite to eat at Thanksgiving than a little bit of turkey, a little bit of stuffing, a little bit of mashed potatoes dipped in gravy. Can I get an amen? I mean that is going to be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. If you have never had that, you are missing good stuff.

And I think that's the way it is with the Spirit. So many times we are just like, *'Okay, it's my time in God's Word.'* But the Spirit is meant to draw you to the Word, and the Word is meant to draw you to the Spirit. And if those two experiences are divorced, we are missing what God is saying to us. God wants to say something to us. And when we talk about experiencing the Holy Spirit, the greatest way to experience the Holy Spirit is through His Word. When is the last time you have done that? When is the last time you opened up His Word and said, *'God, show me. Show me what you want to say to me.'* He will use His Word to interpret some event going on in your life and you need to hear it.

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Some of you have said, ‘*God, I need to hear from you.*’ And you can. Just open up the Word, get on your knees and the Holy Spirit will always point back to truth. In fact one of my favorite verses is in II Peter Chapter 1 and verse 21. “***For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.***” Men were carried along, or moved, by the Holy Spirit to write Scripture. The Spirit is all about the Word. He is not about experiences alone, and experiences void of truth are dangerous. That is the first guarantee - the guarantee of God’s Word proclaimed.

The second guarantee we see is the guarantee of God’s presence expanded. “***And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.***” What is that about? We don’t see that today. Today when the Holy Spirit comes we don’t see tongues of fire over people’s heads, so what was this all about? Again, sometimes when we read the book of Acts we have to distinguish between what is prescriptive and what is descriptive. Some things are describing certain events and some things are prescribing, like this is normative.

Now one of the things that we are going to see throughout the book of Acts, and what we see when we study Scripture, and we are not going to take the time to do this, is that the Holy Spirit comes to indwell people, human beings, at the moment they give their heart to Jesus Christ. What that means is prior to salvation we do not have the Holy Spirit. Now the Holy Spirit can work and move in us, but it is like when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, when we make that decision of faith, the Holy Spirit moves into our house. He moves in and He stays.

So this is different from the Old Testament. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would come upon certain people at certain times to do a certain work, and then He would leave. In Psalms 51 David is writing his penitential Psalm after he commits adultery with Bathsheba. And there is a very famous line where David says, “***And take not your Holy Spirit from me.***”

We don’t have to worry about that today, because when the Holy Spirit comes now to new believers, He is coming to indwell and to indwell forever. Ephesians Chapter 1 and verse 13 says this: “***In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.***” The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is now living inside of us when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

So when the fire comes and the Spirit comes, everyone is talking. Men and women are both talking. And this is important for us, because the Christian faith teaches equality like no other religion. The Holy Spirit comes in full to all people, no matter

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what their gender. The Holy Spirit comes in full to people no matter what their ethnicity. The Holy Spirit comes in full to all nations; it doesn't matter if you are American, Mexican, German or South African. When you accept Christ everyone gets the full measure of the Holy Spirit.

It doesn't matter what socio-economic level, or what educational background you have. It includes people who have gone to seminary and those who haven't gone to seminary. It includes people who are wealthy and people who are poor. The Holy Spirit shows us that whoever gives their heart and life to Jesus gets the full measure of God Himself. He doesn't hold back. And there is no other faith system in this world that gives people this kind of equality before God. There is no special religious class.

The Holy Spirit comes and He wants to set up shop. He wants to live inside of us. And that should beg a couple of questions for us. The first question is - do you have the Holy Spirit? Many times when we measure if we really have faith in Christ we talk about our experiences. We say things like, *'I prayed a prayer at VBS. I walked the aisle in a church service when I was really emotional. I understood the gospel.'*

But let me tell you something, you can understand all the intellectual realities and truths about the Bible, you can pray a prayer and ask God to do something, and you can feel really emotional at a church service, and still not become a true follower of Jesus. Because the truest sign that you are really a believer and follower of Jesus is that the Holy Spirit has come to you. He now lives inside of you. He has set up shop and now dwells inside of you.

If you are sitting here this morning and you are hearing about the Holy Spirit living inside of us, and you have no idea what that looks like, or what that feels like, if you don't sense any kind of presence, any sense of guidance or direction to His Word, let me challenge you to ask yourself this question - when have you received the Spirit? That is a question we all have to face because being around church, and coming to church, and knowing a lot about the truth does not make you a follower of Jesus. When the Holy Spirit comes, He comes to indwell and He comes to transform.

The second question is this - if the Holy Spirit comes to indwell, how do I know He is really working? Now there are a couple of things that are important to understand. There is no second blessing of the Holy Spirit. Like I said, when you receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, you get the full measure of the Holy Spirit at that time. There is no extra, like a VIP section only for Holy Spirit people.

Twelve years ago in Denver we bought a little 1200 square foot ranch house that had a 1500 square foot empty shell that had been added on but was never finished. So my wife and I bought this house as an investment and also for our growing family. We

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spent about five years finally getting that house done and we ended up with a 2700 square foot house. It had two bedrooms upstairs and three bedrooms downstairs. It was kind of like two separate living quarters. My wife and I had committed our house to the Lord and we wanted to use this house for His glory. We wanted to be able to offer part of this house to anyone who needed help and to let them stay with us.

So we had a couple of different families over the years that lived with us. And whenever someone comes to live in your house with you, it changes things. One time we had a college friend of ours who lived with us for six months while her husband was stationed in Iraq. So it was her and their three kids who were about the same age as our kids. And because we kind of had two separate bedrooms areas and a giant living quarters we were able to operate well. And we had to figure out who was going to use the kitchen at certain times, and who was going to use the laundry at certain times, so there was just some navigation that you have to go through when another family moves in with you.

And some of us treat the Holy Spirit like that. They are like, *'Hey, the Holy Spirit is moving in so I have a great bedroom for Him. And I will meet you every Sunday morning at church. We will work out our schedules and systems.'* And that is not how it works. When the Holy Spirit moves in, He does not move into a part of the house. When the Holy Spirit moves in He wants the keys. He wants access to every room, because to the Holy Spirit it is about control. The Holy Spirit wants control of our lives.

Here is the thing. You can have the Holy Spirit indwell in you, but the Holy Spirit may not be filling you or controlling you. There is a passage that talks about this in Ephesians Chapter 5 and verse 18 where Paul says this: ***"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."*** This word 'filled' is different than indwelling. This word filled means 'to be controlled by.' Just like Paul uses the analogy of the alcohol, someone who is controlled by alcohol and is drunk, the alcohol is making them do and say things that they would not normally do when they were sober.

Likewise, when the Holy Spirit has control over us, when He is filling us, He has the control gears in our minds and hearts. He is the one who is calling the shots. He is saying, *'You need to go there. You need to say this. You need to ask for forgiveness here.'* That is what the Holy Spirit does. But maybe there is a disconnect that you may have in your experience with the Holy Spirit, because even though you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and He is indwelling you, there is a battle inside of you as to whether or not He is going to fill you.

And what God wants us to do to truly experience His Spirit is to give Him control. We know this is a battle because later on Paul writes about two ways that we can battle against, or wrestle against the Holy Spirit. He talks about not quenching the Holy

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Spirit and he talks about not grieving the Holy Spirit. When we do things in our own will and in our own way, we quench and we grieve the Holy Spirit. And many times there are things in our lives where we are doing things and we are wrestling against God. God wants us to understand that He has given us the Holy Spirit to indwell in us and to make us like Him.

That fire that we saw in Acts 2 represented something that we should remember because we just went through the Encounter Series a few weeks ago. What stood over the Holy of Holies? It was a fire; it was the Shekinah glory. There was a pillar of fire that was above the tabernacle and above the temple. This fire always represented the presence of God.

And when the fire appeared above the disciples at Pentecost, what God was saying was His presence was not just in a building anymore. It was with them. They were now the temple of the Holy Spirit, as Paul says later on in I Corinthians. They were now God's dwelling place.

We don't have to come to a building anymore to meet the Holy Spirit. Some of us still act like that though. Some of us still treat church like that is where they get their Holy Spirit's kick in the butt. But when we accept Jesus the Holy Spirit is now present twenty-four seven for the rest of our lives. He is not going away, and He is never going to leave us. The Holy Spirit wants to have a dynamic relationship with us. What does it look like for your life? We are to be the living representative of the temple of God wherever we go.

So the second guarantee is God's Spirit is being expanded across this world. There is a reason why there is no longer a temple where we all gather. There is a reason why there is no more of having to go to Jerusalem to meet with God. The New Covenant was about getting the Holy Spirit in us so that we could take God with us.

And that leads us to the next guarantee. The third guarantee is God's mission empowered. Let's look at verse 4 in Acts 2. "***And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.***" Now this is the third kind of supernatural thing that transpired during this coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There were people from all around the world here. There were people from Europe, people from Asia and people from Africa. They are there for this festival and some of them might know Hebrew, some might know Aramaic, and some might know Latin.

But at this moment when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and they started declaring the mighty works of God, everyone was hearing it in their native dialect. It was supernatural. And the reason why we know it was supernatural is because the people

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asked, “*Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?*” Now why would that be surprising? It was because Galileans were known as not being the sharpest intellectual people of the day.

I am from Lincoln County so this would have been comparable to people who were from Lincolnton. I am not being offensive to anyone, but Lincolnton is not Silicone Valley, okay? And Galilee was not Rome, and it was not Athens. So the fact that these people would hear these different languages being spoken so eloquently without an accent was profound. There is something supernatural happening here.

Again, I don’t want to get into the issues of speaking in tongues today, because I think the Bible is clear about that. But I do think that it was the point of the tongues that mattered. And what God was saying was He wanted His word declared to every nation, to every tongue, and to every person. That was why they were speaking in tongues.

They were speaking in tongues because what God wanted them to understand was they were to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth. What God was saying at this moment was it was no longer just a Jewish thing; no longer about the temple; no longer about Jerusalem, and no longer just to the Jews. This was to be about a worldwide movement. God was going to send His Spirit across the world.

If you were to look at Jerusalem, and all these different places that were mentioned, it would be like a giant circle of geography, of places all around Jerusalem. And I think Luke was trying to let us see the point that there were people there from all around the world at that time. Verse 11 says: “*We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.*”

And we can see a connection between Mount Sinai and this which is very interesting. In my studies this week I learned the Jewish community had this thing called the *midrash*, which were Biblical teachings passed down. And in one of the Exodus *midrash*’s, which was written prior to our New Testament being written, we find where God declared the Law to Moses in seventy different languages. Is that not amazing?

God was saying that this was the fulfillment of what transpired on Mount Sinai, the giving of the Word. God also tells them again in Exodus Chapter 19 that they were to be His kingdom of priests to the world. But they failed to do it. In fact even on the issue of tongues when Paul teaches on it again in I Corinthians Chapter 14 he quotes Isaiah Chapter 28. The reason people are hearing these foreign tongues being declared is a judgment on the people of Israel because they didn’t do the job. They failed at being a kingdom of priests.

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And now God is taking people from all nations and all tribes and telling them they are to be His people now. No longer is it just a special group of people that get to be called God's chosen people. And that is what God was saying here. It is now possible for them to take the good news to every person. The coming of the Holy Spirit meant that God wanted gospel assess, He wanted the declared Word of God to go to every man, woman and child on this planet. And that is our responsibility now. That is why the Holy Spirit came like He did. He was trying to say, *'I want everyone to hear.'*

That is why we do our little One Life initiative, because we are trying to shift our focus to make sure that we are aware of the lost people around us, the people that are close to us and far from God. We are intentional about declaring the good works of God to them. In fact I will say this - Jesus teaches that there is a way in which we cannot experience the Holy Spirit unless we are sharing the good news.

In Luke Chapter 12 and verse 11 it says this: ***“And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say.”*** There is some anxiety that we all feel when it is time for us to share what we believe. There are going to be times where you are tested. There are going to be times when people want to ask you about your faith, ask you about the gospel, ask you what you believe, and these are moments you cannot prepare for. There are going to be moments that you have to depend on the Holy Spirit as it says in verse 12: ***“For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”***

What that means is it doesn't matter how many apologetic books you have read, how much training you have gone through for evangelism, there are some things that cannot prepare you for that moment when someone asks you about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit has to be the one to give you the right words to say. And that should give us confidence that we don't have to bear all the weight of witnessing. Some of you are so fearful of talking about Jesus to your friends, your family members or your neighbors because you are afraid you are going to screw it up. But that is a lie from the pit of Hell.

What Jesus is teaching here is that there are moments that He has ordained for us not to know the answer. There are moments that He has given to us to test us, so we can experience the Holy Spirit. We can experience the Holy Spirit sometimes in the best way when we share our faith with others. So if you have had anxiety about people asking you questions and you not knowing the answers, stop it. If you know Jesus you have the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you the words to say.

I went through this moment a number of years ago. I was meeting with a friend of mine. Dave was a friend who had started coming to our church, and I would meet with him weekly for about three years to talk about Jesus. Dave did not believe and he had a

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lot of questions, a lot of doubt, a lot of baggage. One of the things that we had to do was walk through his belief systems, his belief structure.

So as we were walking through these things week after week, month after month, he was asking questions and I was using all my seminary training, all of my experiences, all of my knowledge to answer his questions. But nothing was happening, and he still didn't believe. And then finally there was this one moment where the Holy Spirit ordained what I was saying. It was not based on my seminary knowledge or my pastoral skills, it was just a moment where the Holy Spirit gave me the right words to say at the right time.

We were sitting in Wendy's in Denver after just finishing our meal, and Dave said he just had so many questions that he still didn't have the answers to. And in that moment the Holy Spirit gave me this to say to him: *'Dave, what if there are some questions He refuses to answer until you believe?'*

That was not my knowledge talking; that was not my intellect; that was the Holy Spirit. And at that moment Dave bowed his head and accepted Jesus Christ. It is in those moments that we depend on the Spirit the most that God does His best work. And that is what we need to be, a church that is depending on the Spirit so much that when He does work we know it is not us. That is when we know the Spirit of God has done it. We can't take credit, we can't take glory, we can't pound our chests and pump ourselves up, because when the Holy Spirit moves He does something amazing.

That means God is looking for partners. God is still looking for people to declare the good news to people who have not heard. This moment of tongues speaking was an illustration of what God wanted. And God has been looking for partners in this world since Adam and Eve. He has been looking for people that will submit and yield to Him with open hands and an open heart. *'God, what is it that you want me to do? Who do you want me to talk to? What sin do you want me to put to death? What is the life you want me to live?'*

We talk about this idea of being sent out. That means every single person, every single place we go, and every single day we are to be 'sent people.' We talked about that during our Vision Sunday. And the way we see the Spirit of God moving the most is when we partner with God out there. We need to partner with God outside of these doors, into our neighborhoods and into our work places, where the Spirit of God is starting to stir in people's hearts. And we need to be asking God to make us aware of where His Spirit is moving, giving us those divine appointments, because when the Holy Spirit moves it is an amazing experience.

THREE GUARANTEES TO EXPECT WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE

I want to leave you with a couple of questions this morning. The first question is this - Have you received the Holy Spirit? Look inside your heart and ask God right now if you have Him living inside. And if you do not, please don't leave here today without doing business with God. Give Him your heart, give Him your life.

Maybe you know all of the reality about how Jesus came to die on the cross for your sins, to forgive your sins and to give you His righteousness. Maybe you know the truth and the reality that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead, but if you have not truly believed with all of your heart, then the Holy Spirit has not come into your heart. Maybe you are not truly a follower. So if the Holy Spirit is void in your life, would you invite Him in today?

The second question is this - how will you partner with God this week? God is looking for partners. He wants His good works declared out there and not just in here. What we do in here should model what we do out there, and He is looking for partners. He is looking for partners in our neighborhoods; will we join Him? He is looking for partners in our departments at work; will we join Him? He is looking for partners in Mooresville when we go to plant a new church; will we join Him? He is looking for partners down in south Charlotte; will we join Him? God is looking for partners; will you join Him?

Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. I don't know how God wants you to respond this morning, but maybe it is time to start inviting the Holy Spirit to do work inside of you. Maybe He wants you to start connecting the Spirit and the Word. To truly experience the Spirit we have to combine those two. Maybe that is what He wants you to do today. Maybe He wants you to give over control to Him. There are some keys, some rooms in your house that you haven't given Him, and it is time for you to yield those. We will never fully experience the filling of the Spirit until we surrender that control to Him.

Maybe you want to talk to someone about what it truly means to invite the Holy Spirit into your life. We are going to have some counselors in the front of this room that would love to sit with you, pray with you and talk to you so that you might receive the Holy Spirit today. And lastly, maybe the Holy Spirit is already at work in your heart right now and He is saying: *'This is the person I need to talk to this week. Here is how you can partner with me this week where you live.'*

Let's be obedient to Him. Whether you want to come up and pray, whether you want to take in the Lord's Supper and reflect on the goodness of the gospel, whether you want to sit and pray in your seat, or stand and sing with your hands in the air, let us listen and be obedient to the Holy Spirit this morning.

THREE GUARANTEES TO EXPECT WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES ORIGINS SERIES - PART 1- THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE

Father, we come before you and we ask that your Spirit would control us, that your Spirit would be poured out on us once again. That God we would fully yield control of our lives, of this church, into your hands. God, we don't want to do what we want to do, we don't want to do what we can do collectively, we don't want to do things that we can put our fingerprints on and say 'look what Life Fellowship did.' God, we want to see what is possible with you working in us and through us. And so, God, may we yield our hearts and bend our knees and cry out to you to do something that is beyond what is humanly possible. God, we ask for your glory to fill this earth. God, help us be aware so that we will join you, we will partner with you in what you want to do in Lake Norman, to give gospel accessibility to every man, woman and child. God, we crave that, we desire that. Work in us, don't leave us here the same today. We pray these things in your precious name. Amen.

The preceding transcript was completed using raw audio recordings. As much as possible, it includes the actual words of the message with minor grammatical changes and editorial clarifications to provide context. Hebrew and Greek words are spelled using Google Translator and the actual spelling may be different in some cases.