

Message Discussion Guide

Week of May 28, 2023

Message: Pentecost: Spirit Poured Out

Key Scriptures: [Acts 2:1-4, 14-21](#)

Preacher: Pastor Bud Fickley

Message Highlights:

For many of us, the work of the Holy Spirit is a mysterious concept. We hear stories about the Holy Spirit, like the day of Pentecost at the beginning of the Book of Acts, but we have a difficult time understanding the Spirit at work in our everyday lives.

The work of the Spirit is to build up “the Church” – the people of God. When the Spirit is at work we see evidence two ways:

- The fruit of the Spirit ([Gal 5:22-24](#)) is the evidence of the Spirit working **IN** us.
- The gifts of the Spirit ([Rom 12:6-8, 1 Cor 12:1-11, Eph 4:11-16](#)) are the evidence of the Spirit working **THROUGH** us.

The day of Pentecost is a dramatic episode of the Spirit at work in a group of believers but, more often, the work of the Spirit happens every day in very ordinary ways.

Evidence of the Spirit working in and through us comes as a result of our obedience to God. We shouldn't expect God's Spirit to be evidenced in and through us when we haven't first submitted ourselves to God's will.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) When you think of the work of the Spirit, which does your mind go to first, Gifts of the Spirit or Fruit of the Spirit? Do you think you place more importance or emphasis on one of these or the other?
- 2.) Read [Acts 2:42-47](#). How do you see the Fruit of the Spirit described in this passage? What about the Gifts of the Spirit? Which one seems to be emphasized more?
- 3.) Why do you think people in the church tend place more importance on the Gifts of the Spirit instead of the Fruit of the Spirit? How do you think the church would be different in we spent more time on the making sure the Spirit is working **IN** us instead working **THROUGH** us?

- 4.) Read [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#).
- 5.) In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul stops in the middle of his discussion of Spiritual Gifts to talk about love. His description of love seems to include quite a few of the Fruit of the Spirit:
 - a. Why do you think Paul takes so much time to stop and talk about love in the middle of his discussion of spiritual gifts?
 - b. Can you have one of the Fruit of the Spirit without the others? Why is this different from the Gifts of the Spirit?
- 6.) What is something you can do this week to help you find the Spirit working in your life and to submit to that work?

Abundant Life Tip: When we think about the way people hold things over each other (ex. Look what I can do that you can't.), it's no wonder the fruit of the spirit include things like gentleness, faithfulness, patience, and self-control. Our focus should be on the Spirit in us to make us more like Christ. It's only then that the Spirit can work through us to shine light of the Father on the world around us.