



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit: The Radically Accessible Presence of Jesus

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: John 16:1-7

“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ²They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

We all need an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over our souls. When it comes to relating to the Holy Spirit, we often have different postures which fall into the following categories:

- Church has forgotten the Spirit
- We are frightened of the Spirit
- The Spirit has been forced on us by others.

What we want is to have friendship with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit would be a daily lived reality. We need to recognize how close the Holy Spirit is – God is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

God is not far from anyone of us. It is possible to live in an intimate close relationship with God and receive the blessings that come from that intimacy. God has made himself more accessible than we believe.

Jesus tells his disciples that it is good for the disciples that he should go away.

From Genesis to Revelation, God relentlessly wants to be with his people, longing to be in relationship with them. God journeys with his people, desiring to dwell with them. We see examples of this repeatedly in the Bible.

Jesus’s absence paved the way for another dimension of his presence to dwell with his people. The Holy Spirit is the very presence of Jesus Christ in our midst. The Holy Spirit is not some ambiguous power, it is the very presence of Jesus Christ living inside each one of us.

What does it mean to walk in a way where you sense the presence of God?

1. The Spirit dwells in you not because you’ve lived a good, moral life. The Spirit dwells in you because God is good and has forgiven you in Christ.
2. Because the Spirit is in you, you are never alone.
3. Because the Spirit is in you, you can become like Christ.
4. Because the Spirit is in you, you have power.

We receive the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ and by putting our trust in Jesus Christ.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, begins a new multi-week sermon series on the on the Holy Spirit. Pastor Rich begins our series exploring how radically accessible God’s presence is, and what this truth means for our everyday lives.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. Of the three postures we often fall into when relating to the Holy Spirit, which of these categories do you fall into? Do you feel as though the Church has forgotten the Spirit, are you frightened of the Spirit or was the Spirit forced on you by others? Sit down this week, being honest about your response to these questions. Sharing them with a trusted brother or sister in Christ or in your small group.
3. We all need to grow in intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Are you just going through the motions of life right now, not looking to have an intimate relationship with God? Are you tired of living this way? Are you able to hear that God wants to journey with you, and dwell with you, as you walk through your life? Make time this week to be with God, asking for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your life and seeking direction on ways to grow in intimacy with him.