



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit: Series Summary

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: John 20:19-22

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

There are often three different postures that the church tends to have when it pertains to the Holy Spirit: it has forgotten the Holy Spirit, it is frightened of the Holy Spirit or has a way of forcing the Spirit.

We can be so dependent on ourselves that if the Holy Spirit were to walk out, we wouldn't know the difference.

Jesus relates to his disciples in a powerful way in this passage, just as he wants to relate to us in a powerful way. Jesus wants to breathe life into us and tell us again to receive the Holy Spirit.

If we do not open ourselves up to the power of the Holy Spirit, we cannot have the life of God flowing in us and through us. Jesus wants his very life to empower us and saturate our lives. You were made to have the life of God flowing in and through you. The Holy Spirit was sent into the world to fill out lives with God.

The disciples just had the worst thing experience of their lives and were afraid that their lives were also in danger, so they locked themselves up in this room. Jesus gains access to their room and the first words he speaks to the disciples are "Peace be with you!", which he repeats two times. He then breathed on them and commissioned the disciples. Jesus breathing on them reminds them of the stories that they know about from the Old Testament, reminding them what God did long ago and letting them know that God is doing something new now.

Our aliveness comes when God breathes on us. The disciples were out of breath and exhausted. Just like the disciples, today we find ourselves living in a society that is out of breath. The convergence of Covid, political idolatry and racial injustice (CPR), on top of all our daily stressors over the past few years has made it hard for us to breathe. Jesus knows this and wants to breathe his life into all of us.

What does it mean that Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into us?

1. God's presence is accessible right here, right now.
2. The Holy Spirit's central task is to point to Jesus.
3. The Holy Spirit doesn't just offer presence, but presents.

A spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit that empowers a follower of Christ to strengthen the body of Christ.

4. The fruit of the Spirit is the most credible demonstration of our relationship to Christ.
5. We are called to be empowered witnesses.

Jesus calls us to get something done in our city. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us so that we are empowered to get something done in a world that desperately needs His presence.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Lead Pastor Richard Villodas, concludes our sermon series on the on the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. We all have a companion in the Holy Spirit who is with us on our journey. We are never alone, and God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. When you hear this truth of never being alone, is this something that rings true for you or do you feel as though you are walking alone on your journey? Offer your answer up to God, asking for eyes to see and ears to hear how and where the Holy Spirit moving in your life.
3. Instead of making Jesus the center of our lives, we can very easily center our lives around other things such as our social status or avoiding suffering and pain. Where is your dependence on God today? Are you depending on your own strength or is your life's core Jesus? What are the things that you can begin doing this week to move towards depending on Jesus and making him the center of your life?
4. If you belong to Jesus Christ, you have been given spiritual gifts which are meant to be opened and used. Unfortunately, many of us have never taken the time to open these gifts and put them to use. How has God gifted you for the strengthening of others? Have you opened that gift yet and offered it to those around you? If not, ask God for wisdom and guidance on how to move forward with offering your gifts to those around you to help strengthen others.