

## **“The Holy Spirit Lives in You” Weekly Recap**

Jared began with a reading from Acts 2:38. We are very familiar with this passage, but often neglect the fullness conveyed at the end of the verse, “you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” A professor of Jared’s in college loved to teach the “Acts of the Apostles” as the “Acts of the Holy Spirit”. Throughout the book of Acts, we see the actions of the Holy Spirit as the church grows. An old VBS song talked about having “a little white box to put my savior in”. It is certainly true that we have a tendency to put the Holy Spirit in a little box of our own making.

In Genesis 1:2, “the Spirit (Ruah) of God was hovering over the waters”. In Genesis 2: 26, God breathes into the man he formed from the dust. In Ezekiel 37, the Spirit (Ruah) leads the prophet through the valley of dry bones and commands him to “prophecy to the breath (ruah)” that the bones may live. The word “ruah” can mean “breath, spirit, or wind”. Each ties to God directly. This continues with the word “pneuma” in the New Testament. While it is not the only word for the Holy Spirit, it is the most common, and also ties directly to wind and breath. In Luke 4, after the Spirit descended on Jesus after his baptism, he is led by the Spirit (Pneuma) into the desert to be tested. Afterward, he is full of the Spirit and begins teaching in the Synagogues, in one instance reading from Isaiah 61:

***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”***

In the upper room, Jesus promised his spirit would come to his disciples. After he rose from the dead, he joins them in a locked room and in John 20:22, Jesus “breathes into his apostles and tells them to receive the Spirit. This was a measure of the Spirit poured out, but there was more to come. In Acts 2, the Spirit comes in a “sound like a violent wind” and tongues of fire rested on the disciples. This time the Spirit is accompanied with power, signs, and wonders. As much as those things were “supernatural”, perhaps the most amazing sign of all was the power of the gospel message of Jesus, and the love his followers shared as they held all things in common in those early days in Jerusalem.

In our Romans 8 study, we are told to be led by the Spirit; and in Galatians we are told that God is creating new humans, “neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free” (and you can put in many other things which often divide us.) Ephesians 5:8-29 says this:

***For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ***

***will shine on you.” Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Jared closed with a story from a Cruise he went on with his family. One evening, there was a “Silent DJ” party on the main deck. Only those with headphones could hear the DJ, and many were dancing and actively partying to the music. Some had on headphones, but were not dancing but instead stayed outside of the group and simply hung out on the deck. Still others, like Jared, were so oblivious to the scene that they were nearly asleep. This reminds us of the passage above:

***“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”***

Maybe you are oblivious to the working of the Spirit of God in his people.

Maybe you “hear the music” but are afraid to respond.

We don’t have to understand the working of the Spirit to acknowledge the work and give glory to God. One thing is certain, God’s Spirit is living and active in his church. We are to share in the work.

Romans 8:9-17:

***You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.***