

COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME

The Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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Separation from someone important to us costs us emotional toll – sadness/grief. The apostles were devastated that after following the Lord and learning a lot from Him, He was leaving them to go back to His Father (Acts 1). However, the Lord assured them – as He assures us – that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes, and will be with them always.



1. Jesus announced that He was leaving the apostles (Jn. 14: 1-6).

- 1.1. The Lord spent forty days before His ascension, taking opportunities to reinforce His teachings and prepare the apostles for what was coming their way (Acts 1:4-5).
- 1.2. He told them to wait in Jerusalem and stay there until they receive the Holy Spirit, *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high”* (Lk. 24:48-49).
 - 1.2.1. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”* (Acts 1:8).
 - 1.2.2. *“He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you”* (Jas. 14:26).
- 1.3. Similarly, today, when we receive the Holy Spirit, we will receive the same power. Moreover, He will give us comfort, wisdom and guidance. Thus, we must walk in the Spirit so we can resist the desires of the flesh.
- 1.4. When we are sent, we are accompanied by the blessing/anointing of the Lord. We cannot just go on our own.

2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred first in Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecy (Acts 2).

- 2.1. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit included the initial gift of tongues. They were speaking in different languages; they were heard and understood.
- 2.2. With the instruction of the Holy Spirit, the church leaders fasted, prayed and laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas for their first missionary journey (Acts 13:3).
- 2.3. The Sacrament of Baptism makes us Christians and removes original sin.
- 2.4. On the other hand, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a sacrament:
 - 2.4.1. It is a Pentecostal experience.
 - 2.4.2. It is a prayer that a lay person can lead.
 - 2.4.3. It renews a Christian initiation.
 - 2.4.4. It equips people for works of service, so the body of Christ can be built up.

3. How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

- 3.1. The Kingdom of God is within us, if we allow Him to run our lives. We must repent and accept Jesus (Acts 2:38-39).
- 3.2. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us the gifts to enable us. *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them”* (1 Cor.12, 1 Cor. 14:15).
- 3.3. We should let the Holy Spirit lead us. He is behind everything. He empowers the Community. He is grieved if we delay, we disobey or we stop doing.
- 3.4. He gives us wisdom to know the right decision. Thus, if we do not let the Holy Spirit lead, we will fail.
- 3.5. We stifle the Holy Spirit when we do not use our gifts, or we do not allow Him to move in our lives.
- 3.6. There are various manifestations of the Holy Spirit: heat that purifies; water that refreshes; coldness; wind; vision; tears; speaking in tongues peace (Mk. 16:17).

4. What were the results of the coming of the Holy Spirit?

- 4.1. The apostles were emboldened. They witnessed and were used in supernatural fashion.
- 4.2. They were empowered to perform greater than Jesus (Jn. 14:12-15).
- 4.3. They became part of the Body of Christ. They led a communal life and served one another in community.

5. What happens when we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

- 5.1. We become a new person.
- 5.2. We receive the fruit of the Holy Spirit: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control* (Gal. 5:22).
- 5.3. We witness the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are given for common good: *wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, miraculous powers, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, or interpretation of tongues* (1 Cor. 12:8-11).

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost to revive all of us, to awaken the whole church, and to empower us to act on God's mission for us.

Reflection: What gift/s would you like to ask of the Holy Spirit?

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