

## **June 8, 2025: Listening to the Holy Spirit (Part 2)**

Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles at Pentecost like Jesus promised. One of the miracles was that those gathered could hear through the apostles about the mighty works of God in their own native language. The Holy Spirit broke down language barriers at Pentecost.

- 1) How have you seen or experienced the Holy Spirit breaking down barriers in our day and age?
- 2) What are some of the barriers that exist in society today? In the church?
- 3) Acts 2:1-2 says, "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting?" What would it have been like to be there on that day? Would you have been scared? Or, do you think there would have been calm and peace amid the noise?
- 4) The Holy Spirit came upon these believers as they were together in one place. Does the Spirit come only upon Christians who are together in church or worship? Or, can the Spirit come upon an individual at any time? Explain?
- 5) Jesus told the disciples in John's gospel that it was to their advantage that he left because if he didn't, the Spirit wouldn't come. We know the Spirit of God has been here

since the beginning of time(Genesis 1:2); but can we now access more of the Spirit because of Pentecost? Has the Holy Spirit moved from being more of an impersonal force in the Old Testament to a personal force found in the New Testament? Explain?

- 6) Does the Holy Spirit evoke feelings of inspiration, warmth, and calm? Or, is the Holy Spirit more of an abstract, impersonal being?
- 7) The Holy Spirit empowers us to speak, but the Holy Spirit also empowers us to restrain ourselves and listen. When have you experienced restraining yourself from saying something that could have been hurtful or harmful to someone?

## **June 1, 2025: Listening to the Holy Spirit**

Listening to the Holy Spirit is a deeply transformative practice that invites us to tune into the divine presence guiding our lives. It's in the stillness of prayer and the movement of daily life that we learn to discern the Spirit's voice, allowing the Spirit to shape us and send us out with purpose - to create, heal, and restore the world around us.

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:4; John 14: 15-17, 25; John 16: 7, 13

The Spirit of God (Holy Spirit), moved over the face of the waters at creation. When Jesus came, he spoke of the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his followers. The Holy Spirit is still working and speaking. Are we listening?

- 1) Would you consider yourself a good listener? Would others consider you a good listener?
- 2) What role does listening play in our relationship with God?
- 3) Why is it important to listen when we are in an attitude of prayer?
- 4) When we think of the Holy Spirit we think of strength and power. But the Spirit also speaks in a quiet whisper. How can we cultivate our spiritual discernment where we might sense or hear the whisper of God?
- 5) Jesus talked in John's gospel about the Holy Spirit being our advocate or comforter. How have you experienced the

Spirit as your helper or comforter? Can that also happen through other people?

- 6) John 16:13 says that “The Spirit will guide us into all truth.” Tell of a time that you experienced a moment of insight, inspiration, or clarity as you read the Bible? What did that do for you? How did it help you?
- 7) The Holy Spirit speaks to us through both the written and spoken word. Have you ever asked the Holy Spirit to aid you in your understanding of what role the scriptures are to play in your life?
- 8) In John 14, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will not only be with us, but will live in us. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we live by the Spirit?