



**Week 7**  
**May 13-19**

**“The Holy Spirit”**

**Sunday**

**Acts 2:42**            *The disciples devoted themselves...*

**Acts 1:3-5**

This week we focus on the Holy Spirit. Various churches place different emphasis on the role and place of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and of a Christian.

As people called to live holy lives that are transformed by God, it is imperative that we are truly open to the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants to give us his Spirit. We cannot be holy, transformed or continue to grow in Christ without being baptized by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God with us today.

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. We will see what God did on Pentecost and open ourselves to his mighty work in us.

*Pastor Keith*

*Thou who art over us, Thou who art one of us, Thou who art:  
Give me a pure heart, that I may see thee;  
a humble heart, that I may hear thee;  
a heart of love, that I may serve thee;  
a heart of faith, that I may abide in thee. Amen.*

*Dag Hammarskjold, Sweden, 20<sup>th</sup> century*

**Monday**

**Judges 15:14**

The Spirit swept over the surface as creation began (Genesis 1:2) and was breathed into the first person (Genesis 2:7). The Spirit of God is active throughout the Old Testament (e.g. the reading today) and the Gospels to accomplish the supernatural work of God. Yet something about the presence of the Holy Spirit changed with Jesus’ ministry. Jesus came to *baptize* with the Holy Spirit (John 1:32-34, 14:16; Acts 1:4-5). How the Holy Spirit is present becomes new – or perhaps renewed. Today, the Holy Spirit is constantly present and active in the life of a Christian. The fabulous and supernatural presence of God still occurs.

When have you witnessed or experienced the Holy Spirit at work in the Church?

Would you like to participate in more of God’s Holy Spirit work?

*Prayer: Jesus, baptize me with your baptism. Amen.*

## Tuesday

### Luke 1:26-38

Emphasizing the new reality of the Holy Spirit, Luke mentions the Holy Spirit six times in just the first two chapters of his Gospel. The Holy Spirit overshadows Mary (v. 35) and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary is pregnant with the Son of God. The Greek (original language of the New Testament) word for "overshadow" means the "holy, powerful presence of." The holy, powerful presence of God causes Mary to be pregnant.

The same Greek word is used to describe God's presence at the Transfiguration (Luke 9:34). It calls to mind Old Testament events such as when the Spirit of God filled the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:35) or stood guard and led the Israelites through the desert (Exodus 13:21).

When have you personally experienced the holy, powerful presence of God?

*Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill me. Amen.*

## Wednesday

### Acts 2:1-4

This text describes the first baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus promised. This is a primary purpose of his coming. Something like the filling of the Tabernacle (Ex. 40:35) occurred, but this time it was the filling of Jesus' followers. God once again breaths his life (Gen. 1:2) into those created in his image.

As we follow the Disciples' example outlined at Acts 2:42, we open ourselves and respond to Jesus' baptism.

On a scale of 0-6, with 0 meaning not at all and 6 meaning perfection, how do you rate your discipleship in these areas:

Devotion to Jesus	1	2	3	4	5	6
Prayer practice	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bible study/understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6
Means of grace	1	2	3	4	5	6
Christian fellowship	1	2	3	4	5	6

Let the Holy Spirit help you.

*Prayer: holy Spirit, you empower your people. Empower me to devote myself to the Apostles' teaching, fellowship, means of grace and prayer. Show me your way. Amen.*

## **Thursday**

### **Acts 11:1-18**

There is a tendency among people to feel protective of something they treasure. Perhaps this is what some of the disciples were doing when they strove to limit who could receive Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit.

People also sometimes tend to shy away from what is odd, unfamiliar, uncomfortable, disconcerting or unexplained. This may be a why some are reticent to be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all who believe and follow Jesus, who are born again into the Creator's image. The baptism of the holy, powerful presence of God is for all followers of Jesus today.

Jesus came to destroy death and restore life. Jesus came to baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Are you accepting of Jesus' total work in your life? In the life of those you love?

*Prayer: Jesus, I surrender to you. Help me and all your followers surrender all. Overcome the barriers that separate us from you, especially those we erect. Lead us into the full life you have for your people. Your will be done. Thank you. Amen.*

## **Friday**

### **John 3:1-8**

Birth is a process of leaving one environment to enter a new one. For a Christian, we leave the understanding and principles of the predominant worldview to enter the new life of the Kingdom of God. Verses 9-21 describe a birthing process. Birthing into the Kingdom of God involves believing in Jesus Christ and being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Unlike our first birth, our new birth rests upon our decision.

What is your decision? Do you continually keep believing in Jesus Christ and being born of his Spirit?

The fellowship of Jesus is like a giant, joyful caravan that travels through the wasteland of human brokenness and depravation. Wherever sin has ravaged the human soul, Jesus invites all who wish, to join His caravan. He offers fullness of life and eternal life that begin the moment we believe him. He is the Son of God, God in person, who takes away the sin of the world, your sin. When you believe, you become part of a wonderous caravan that will never end. Trust Him. You will not be let down.

*Prayer: Divine Master and Leader, please, by your authority and power, cancel the power sin has over me. Forgive me. Replace my frailties with your strength and wisdom. Help me trust you with all people and all things, everything I treasure. I devote them and all that I am to you. I devote myself to you. Baptize me with your Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## **Saturday**

Following Jesus is a continuing renewal process.

Tomorrow is Pentecost Sunday. During worship services you will have opportunities to 1. reaffirm or make your first statement of believing Jesus and 2. ask to be baptized by his Holy Spirit. Jesus came to do both in the Church. The Church is complete when living and sharing the Gospel and when baptized with the Holy Spirit.

*Prayer: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, who by the light of your Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Walk to Emmaus Reunion Group Prayer, Upper Room.*

I pray "50 Days of Prayer" have helped you experience the presence God.

*Pastor Keith*