

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 12 Jun 2022

**Sermon Title** : You Will Receive

**Speaker** : Rev Reuben Ng

**Text** : Acts 1:8

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## INTRODUCTION

In the previous sermon, Ps John spoke about fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith (2 Timothy 4:6-7), and we can only do it through the power of the Holy Spirit which enables us. We do this not only for ourselves, to be in good standing with God following His perfect plan for us, or for God, by bringing pleasure to God's heart through our worship, but it is also for the world. This is because God's heart is always for the world and He loves people unconditionally. God always has an eye out for anyone who is not in His kingdom. He wants to reach them, and with His love and goodness, invite them into His kingdom and His family. We need the Holy Spirit to empower us to live out the lives and purposes that God has for us in order to reach out to the world.

## The Holy Spirit

John 16:7 - "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your **advantage** that I go away, for if I do not go away, the **Advocate** will not come to you;

It seemed ridiculous that it would be an advantage to His disciples that Jesus leaves them. But this is the truth that Jesus affirmed them because He is sending an Advocate and Helper to them not as a one for one replacement but to empower them. Many of us are familiar with God the Father, Jesus the Messiah, but not so when it comes to the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is also God. He is the third person in the Godhead.

We may not fully understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity - One God but three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so, may neglect the Holy Spirit and relegate Him to some lower thing that we hardly have any encounters or address with. Yet Jesus is saying it is to our detriment and we are short-changing ourselves if we do not treat the Holy Spirit in the way that we are to view Him.

- It is to our advantage that Jesus is no more here with us because then the Holy Spirit (also referred as the Advocate, Counselor, Helper) will be here with us.

How do we view the Holy Spirit, do we communicate with Him? Or are we like most churches where once a year, we talk about the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday?

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- It should be a constant daily living with the Holy Spirit. He is real because just like Jesus was there with the disciples, the Holy Spirit is here with us too. The same things that we ask or wish Jesus was around to help us settle, the Holy Spirit can do so as well.

## Great Commission

**Matthew 28:18-20** - "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.**

Jesus' Great Commission is meant for every single person. As long as we are a child of God and call Jesus our Lord and Saviour and claim to follow Christ, this command is for us. It is not only for those select few who are involved in missions.

**Luke 24:46-49** - "and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be **proclaimed** in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my **Father promised**; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

If we put **Matthew 28** and **Luke 24** together, we can use two words to summarize: **going** for **Matthew 28** and **proclaiming** for **Luke 24** - the Great Commission is found in two passages, two different gospels, in different words.

Luke 24 seems to capture something else, as Jesus goes on to say, "so **stay here in the city** until you have been clothed with power from on high." Does Jesus want us to go and proclaim or does He want us to stay? Which is the greater priority? Many Christians and churches will say the priority is to go and proclaim and that is our duty we need to fulfil. Jesus is saying the going (from Matthew 28) and proclaiming (from Luke 24) is critical, but before that occurs one needs to first stay and receive.

## The Father's promise

Acts 1:4-5 – "While staying with them, he ordered them **not to leave** Jerusalem, but to wait there for the **promise of the Father**. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the **Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

The staying to receive has to come before going because the Holy Spirit has inspired the writer of the Bible to repeat this in Luke 24:46-49 and Acts 1:4-5, to ensure we do not miss it!

- The Father's promise is that the disciples will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

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## The Purpose of the Father's Promise

**Acts 1:8** – But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- The going and the proclaiming is important. It is our call and command, but the staying and the receiving ensures that the going and the proclaiming will be effective. Without that, it will be with our own strength.

## Infilling of the Holy Spirit

**Acts 2:1-4** – “When the day of Pentecost had come (50 days after Jesus’ resurrection), they were all together in one place (they had to stay and receive). And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

- Every individual had a tongue as of fire resting upon them. This tells us that God deals with all of us individually and personally, God did not pass by anyone. These disciples, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, began praising and worshipping God in other languages.
- Peter, who had denied Christ three times because of fear of persecution but now being filled with the Holy Spirit, received power and boldness, stepped out and preached his very first sermon. This sermon was to non-Christians and on that day, 3000 were saved!

In **Acts 3**, John and Peter healed a crippled guy by the power of the Holy Spirit and the man stood up to walked because he was physically healed. He leapt in joy (emotionally healed) and praised God (spiritually healed). A crowd gathered and a ruckus formed because they could not believe nor understand the power of the Holy Spirit. John and Peter got hauled up before the authorities and were interrogated. Again they said that it was the name of Jesus Christ and the power of the Spirit, yet no one understood nor believed them. They were let off but warned never again to do such things. They then went and gathered the other disciples and shared with them everything that had occurred. They decided they should pray because they did not want to cower from doing what they had been told to do by Jesus.

**Acts 4:31** – “When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.”

- These guys were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, and again here in Acts 4. It is a constant infilling of the Holy Spirit that empowers us, not a one-time thing.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Let us honour the Holy Spirit as God and constantly receive power by the infilling of the Holy Spirit so we may, in boldness, go and proclaim the reality of Jesus Christ our Messiah to the world, to reach them, and with His love and goodness, invite them into His kingdom and His family. It is a God-sized task and we need the Holy Spirit to empower us to live out this purpose in our lives.

### **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

2. Appoint someone to read Acts 1:8 slowly.

While we all aspire to live out God's purposes for our lives, we can only do that effectively with the help and power of the Holy Spirit.

- a. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- b. What evidences in your life suggest that you are filled with the Holy Spirit?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. Who is the Holy Spirit to you and what role does He play in your daily walk with God?
  - a. What can you do to improve your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
  - b. How has knowing that you need a constant infilling of the Holy Spirit to empower you, and it is not a one-time thing, impacted you?
  
4. Before you go and proclaim, you must first stay and receive.
  - a. Why is it important to 'stay and receive' before you 'go and proclaim'?
  - b. What are some changes you need to make in your life in order for you to live a Spirit-filled life?
  - c. How can your group members help or encourage you to make the changes in 4b. above for the following week(s) till your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies and Prayer**

***Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.***

5. Share your personal testimony on how you have encountered or received the power of the Holy Spirit.

OR

Give thanks to God for the power and enablement of the Holy Spirit that helps you in your times of need.

6. With a prayer partner, seek the Holy Spirit's leading in your daily life to live out God's purposes for you. Pray for God's strength and power to support one another in your journeys of faith.

As a group, pray that our church will 'stay to receive' the power of the Holy Spirit, so we may be filled with boldness to 'go and proclaim' God's love in His power to the wider community around us and the world.

## Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. O For A Thousand Tongues – Gateway Worship  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDw7hq0\\_qyo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDw7hq0_qyo)
2. Yes And Amen – Housefires <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1dr268AwH8>
3. Come Holy Spirit – Caroline Tjen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-R8fJO1hlg8>

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