

## The Holy Spirit is Our Helper

### Lesson 03 of the series “Foundations”

“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. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. ‘How can this be?’ they exclaimed. ‘These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages... about the wonderful things God has done!’ They stood there amazed and perplexed. ‘What can this mean?’ they asked each other.” Acts 2:1-12 (NLT)

Four reasons we need the Holy Spirit:

1. Through the Holy Spirit, we have the mind of Christ. This means God can reveal things to us, and we can understand His will and His ways.

“The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us... we have the mind of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 (NLT)

*Note:* The sound of a mighty wind on Pentecost Sunday reminds us that, through the Holy Spirit, God can breathe life into spiritually dead people.

Wind = “pneuma” (Greek) = “breath” = “Spirit”

“...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.” Genesis 2:7 (NLT)

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil... All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)”  
Ephesians 2:1-5 (NLT)

2. Through the Holy Spirit, we can be sure that God is always with us, guiding us and protecting us.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans...” John 14:16-18 (NLT)

*Note:* The tongues of fire that appeared on Pentecost Sunday remind us that we are now temples of the Holy Spirit, and God’s Spirit now lives in us.

“The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.” Exodus 13:20 (NLT)

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?”  
1 Corinthians 3:16 (NASB)

*Note:* The tongues of fire settled on ALL of the believers, not just a few.

“...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days...’”  
Acts 2:16-18 (NLT) (See also Joel 2:28-29) 800BC

3. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the gifts and power we need to bring Jesus to the world.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”  
Acts 1:8 (NLT)

*Note:* The disciples' supernatural ability to speak in languages they had never learned reminds us of God's love for the whole world and his desire for people of every nation to hear the Good News about Jesus.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NASB)

4. Through the Holy Spirit, God transforms our character. He makes us into Godly people.

"The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

*Note:* The church that formed in Jerusalem on Pentecost Sunday shows us what a spirit-filled community of believers can look like.

"Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved." Acts 2:41-47 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We need to surrender every part of our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit.

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."  
Galatians 5:24-25 (NLT)

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### **Connect Group Questions**

1. Read Acts 2:1-12. What do you think it would have been like to be a visitor in Jerusalem on Pentecost Sunday? What do you think it would have been like to be one of the disciples?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-16. Describe an experience in your life when you felt like God revealed truth to you.
3. Read Exodus 13:20-22, Numbers 9:15, John 14:16-18, & 1 Corinthians 3:16. Compare/contrast how God led the Israelites to the Promised Land and how He leads Christians today.
4. Read Acts 1:8. To whom does this verse apply?
5. Read Acts 2:41-47. What are your impressions of the first Christian church? Why aren't all Christian churches like that today?
6. Discuss the following four ways the Holy Spirit helps us:
  - Through the Holy Spirit, we have the mind of Christ. This means God can reveal things to us, and we can understand His will and His ways.
  - Through the Holy Spirit, we can be sure that God is always with us, guiding us and protecting us.
  - Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the gifts and power we need to bring Jesus to the world.
  - Through the Holy Spirit, God transforms our character. He makes us into Godly people.

Which of these ways means the most to you?

7. Read Ephesians 5:18 & Galatians 5:24-25. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? How do we get filled?
8. Spend some time as a group praying for each other and our church as we move into the reopening phase of the covid-19 pandemic.