

Come, Holy Spirit

Rev. Dr. Kim Engelmann

West Valley Presbyterian Church

I have been on a lot of airplanes lately and I have got to tell you that...
All this flying around gets to you after awhile.
I know some of you do it all the time for your jobs, but I just don't think I am cut from that cloth...

And you can't fly anywhere anymore without going through a scanner now that looks like this...(IMAGE OF SCANNER FOR AIRPORT SECURITY)

You have to stand with your hands up like this– and the panel goes...Vroom! Vroom!
Back and forth to make sure you are clean

And of course they ask you questions like – is there anything sharp in your luggage, and I say no, and then your little wheeled suitcase goes through the scanner and lo and behold once they found a pocket knife that I didn't know I even had
It was stuck in a side pocket
And they said "What's this?"
And I said, "It's a knife but it's not sharp I promise."
They took it...
They find everything I didn't know I had.

What if we had a contraption like this that scanned for our Holy Spirit fullness?
Ever walk into the church cranky? I have.
It's just a bad day.
Wouldn't it be great if before we started working or getting going in our worship we walked into one of these scanners...
Vroom! Vroom!...and we got measured for how full of God's Spirit we actually were?
Well you are full of patience today, but down on the joy factor
You have more than 4oz of grumpiness so we are going to have to take that... confiscate it...dangerous for the church

Wouldn't it be great if, before anybody came in here and interacted, they had to have a Holy Spirit check?

Then you could find out '**Are we really governed by the Holy Spirit?**
Is the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self control) what we're carrying on the inside?
Or is it more dangerous stuff?

We could keep all the people who don't make the cut out there in the Narthex or Courtyard until they straighten up."

We could even have checkpoints set up at the entrances all around the church...on the Miller and Bollinger sides and...

If there was a spirit of

complaint or gossip or judgmentalism or selfishness or stubbornness or lust or greed, the buzzer would go offthe whole fixture could light up..the iron bars would come down...and you couldn't get through."

How many people would be here in this room right now?

(Just me, because I'd sneak in the back way or something.)

Most of us...we want to live in a spirit of gratitude and a spirit of humility and a spirit of hope and a spirit of joy and a spirit of love.

We all do, but we can't do it on our own. That's the human condition.

Without the HOLY SPIRIT we are sunk.

The Holy Spirit shows us our own disability, and grants dependence on His ability.

In the New Testament – after Jesus ascends - it is the Holy Spirit who creates the first church and the Holy Spirit is the one who changes everyone and everything. Without the Holy Spirit the entire early church...it would have been sunk!

Now we do have mention of the Spirit of God in the Old Testament
Having read the STORY you know that the

The Spirit of God would sometimes fall on Moses or Deborah or David to enable them to do extraordinary things for God.
The Bible uses such fascinating language to describe this.

It will say the Spirit of God fills people or comes on them or speaks through them or rests on them or is poured out on them or is placed upon them or enters into them or catches them up.

It's all trying to capture this remarkable notion that God's Spirit can come on a human life and enable that person to live in ways that transcend human limitations.

But there was a problem **In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God was only present in certain times at certain places on certain people.**

Moses, for example, was a prophet filled with the Spirit of God.

In Numbers 11, we're told the Spirit of God fell on a few other men in Israel, and they began to prophesy under the Spirit, God's Spirit. People thought Moses might be jealous, so in Numbers 11:27, **"A young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.'"**

Joshua said, "Moses, make them stop."

"But Moses replied, 'Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!'"

All.

God promised one day it would be so. This is from the prophet Joel.

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

Then Jesus came, and he was above all else a man full of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit came on him, and people saw when they looked at Jesus what a Spirit-filled, Spirit-surrendered, Spirit-driven life looks like.

After the resurrection, the disciples wondered, What's going to come next?

This is what Jesus told them during one of his resurrection appearances to them.

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which

a. Is a church planting curriculum

b. Is a new book of doctrine

c. Is a flip chart

No. Which you have heard me speak about.

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

This gift, the Holy Spirit, will come on you.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..."

Jesus says, "Don't leave Jerusalem, but wait for this gift."

How do you think they felt when the one instruction he gave them was, "Wait"

Why does God always do that?

Why does he always make us wait?

Why doesn't he just give them the Holy Spirit immediately right then and there? Because when it comes to the Spirit, we have to learn, **"I'm not in charge."**

Throughout the whole Bible, God keeps telling people to wait.

This is a big theme.

He tells Abraham, "You have to wait until you have a child."

"Moses, wait for freedom."

He tells them to wait for a king, wait for the exile to be over, and wait for the Messiah.

Jesus dies and is resurrected, and one more time that word comes.

Wait.

I don't like to wait. But God's timing is always perfect. And I have to remember that he is in

charge – not me.

And that unless I wait for the Holy Spirit, unless I am operating out of the power of the Holy Spirit, I am sunk! **The Holy Spirit shows us our own disability, and grants dependence on His ability.**

And if you are waiting for something from God today you are in good company...many in scripture have had to WAIT on the Lord.

So the disciples waited. After all those centuries, God had finally found a people, who when he said,

"Wait," they actually did it!

They gathered. They hoped. They all joined together constantly in prayer.

That is why the beginning of Acts 2 says that the disciples "were altogether in one place" just before the Holy Spirit came.

They were waiting...waiting for the promise of Jesus...the coming of the Holy Spirit.

They must have wondered, "How will we know what it's going to be like? How will we know when the Holy Spirit comes?"

When the Holy Spirit came they knew...God made sure of it. This is in the book of Acts, chapter 2:

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. [...] Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'"

Do you see Luke struggling to describe the indescribable? He says, "*There is a sound. It's not the wind, but it's like the wind, and there's these tongues. They are not fire, but they look like fire."*

Instead of burning up, they begin to speak, and people of every language could understand what they're saying, and there is kind of a reversal going on here.

Some of you remember the story of the Tower of Babel. In that story, people used to be able to understand each other. Then the Spirit intervenes and they can't understand each other anymore – a punishment for being haughty..

At Pentecost, people from all nations were gathered there in Jerusalem and they couldn't understand each other either;

When the Spirit comes however, they can.

The Holy Spirit is bringing the human race back together again, reconciling and forging understanding.

Peter then speaks. The disciples had spoken before. Only this time it's different. *This time there is power.* Peter preaches the gospel to a crowd who was scoffing – they think he is maybe drunk or something...

When he gets to the end of his sermon, Scripture says,

"When the people heard this, (Peter's talk) they were cut to the heart and said..., 'Brothers, what shall we do [to be saved]?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

The Holy Spirit did that! Turned scoffers into people who were ready to repent and be forgiven!

Once again I will say it...without the Holy Spirit, we are sunk. **The Holy Spirit shows us our own disability, and grants dependence on His ability.**

So how do you know if you are operating in the Holy Spirit?

You look around and you see what the Holy Spirit is doing through you.

You begin to recognize the person of the Holy Spirit...based on what he does...as much as if the score is up for the Warriors you think...Oh Steph Curry must be playing! Steph Curry is known for what he does – making baskets.

In the same way The Holy Spirit is recognized for what he does...if you see any of this, you can recognize his presence

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS OF SIN If you were here last week you saw two baptisms. This is the Holy Spirit at work! He works in people's hearts to recognize their need for forgiveness, and their need for Jesus. This is a conviction that only comes because of the Holy Spirit – and baptism symbolizes that awareness, that conviction.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES COMMUNITY
We're told in Acts that the early church was an amazing place of community!
"...All were one in heart and [spirit]. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. [...] There were no needy persons among them."

That was the Holy Spirit creating the early church. It was a community like never before. No one had ever seen anything like it. A community who cared about orphans and widows and who cared for the broken and the outcasts. No one did that back then. The HS created that community.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS HEALING

Acts 19 says, **"God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were**

**cured and the evil spirits
left them."**

I am learning to trust the Holy Spirit more in my life. I am learning more and more that without the Holy Spirit I am sunk. I gotta tell you this last week in Spokane illustrated these last two point for me on community and healing...

Its mother's day, and as a Mom...all of you know how much you want to make it right for your kids – you want to do everything you can for them

When I got to Spokane I wanted to do everything to make it right...for my son Chris who underwent ACL surgery – very painful

He was in agony after the surgery...so

I went and bought a ton of food, we had a family suite rented, I even went way out to the other side of town to bring in the best Chinese Food possible – Chris usually likes to eat But he was in such pain it didn't matter; he could barely sit up and hardly knew where he was

I couldn't make it right...I was up every four hours in the night to give him morphine...it barely seemed to make a dent

So on the second day I went in my car and just prayed...Holy Spirit come...I just can't do this. I am having such a hard time seeing him suffer and I can't make it right...You have to help me. I am so tired. Holy Spirit come, heal Chris and give me strength...strength I don't have on my own.

And I waited. And this time I actually waited expectantly because I have learned over the years that this kind of praying works.

When I am honest, and at my wits end, when I show up for God, he shows up...

This time I only had to wait one hour.

One hour after that prayer is when the people started coming...Knock, knock...we are here to see Chris...how is he? When one group would leave, there would be another at the door

Chris is so extroverted – he got all cheered up by all these folks...the Holy Spirit created community around him just out of the blue.

Some brought cookies, others brought ice cream to add to our huge stash of food we already had.

These students brought their homework, they sat on the bed

One guy even brought a cat. I don't generally like cats.

But I was so glad to see this cat – his name was Alfred. Big and fluffy and gray...The guy brought the cat in through the back window so the front desk wouldn't see and Alfred cheered Chris up.

All these people came,

Perfectly timed, back to back, as if we had orchestrated it

And Chris got so happy – and then he ordered pizza and we watched the Warriors lose a game

But it didn't matter because

Because

The Holy Spirit had come

And he brought community

And he brought healing

And the next day Chris took a ride in a wheelchair down the hall and the next day he went out for breakfast;

Back in the early church...People didn't say, "Nice sermon." People didn't say, "Cool music."
People didn't say, "Good church."
They said, "That's the Holy Spirit," because they recognized his work

Friends, the very power who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, lives in us, is with us.
Without that, we're sunk

So if you were to go through the Spirit detector today, VROOM! VROOM! Here's the question to ask yourself:
Is the Holy Spirit actually guiding my life?
Am I allowing him free reign?
Am I surrendered to him? Would the Holy Spirit detector, detect a spirit-filled, spirit-directed life? Or am I doing it all myself...

I have to ask myself that all the time in the work here...cause once I start doing things on my own effort I am going to burn myself out very quickly...unless I am given over...

This is really important for us all to understand, because for a lot of people the Holy Spirit is kind of the
mysterious member of the Trinity or the part of God whom we feel like we don't understand.

We did a series here on the Holy Spirit once where we called the Holy Spirit **"the Helper"**
That's a really good name for the Holy Spirit – kind of takes the weirdness away
One alongside to help...that's actually what the word Holy Spirit/Paraclete means

Paul writes to the church at Rome. Let's read these words together out loud.

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit; the Spirit of God (who) lives in you."

Remember, when the Spirit comes, he takes over, in power. And I realize that
I'm not in control of my life anymore.
It's not my time.
It's not my money.
It's not my relationships.
It's not my career.
It's not my life.
I am controlled and given over to God...

Also, for those of you in ministry, *know this*...
There is a mystery to the Holy Spirit..
You know, sometimes you work and pray and struggle to make a small group, or church meeting great, and it's just kind of flat?
Other times you don't even prepare well and God just anoints it?

There is a mystery to the Holy Spirit

Bob Munger...some of you know that name. Dear pastor who wrote the very famous book *My Heart, Christ Home*. He wrote that as a...last minute thing for an evening service he hadn't prepared for, on the same day he presented it. It has been a best seller for 50 years.

Corrie Ten Boom recounts a time when she was asked to do a radio broadcast at the last

minute and prayed "Lord, you know I can't do it. I can't give that radio message." I received the same answer I always get when I say: "I can't do it." The Lord said: *"I've know that for a long time, but I am glad that you know it, for that is why now you can let Me do it."* So I went ahead and gave the message. I thought it was a bit incoherent, and that if I had been given time to prepare I would have done a far better job. But person after person came up to me afterward and thanked me and said they had given their life to Christ because of it. That's the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

You don't always know when the Holy Spirit will come, what he will anoint, how he will work, but he will come with power.

Sometimes we just have to wait, and we always stay ready and alert for his movement among us.

There are churches and lives where the winds of the Spirit have not blown in a long time where in worship, *if the Holy Spirit ever wanted to do anything spontaneous, he would have to take a number and get in line and have his proposal voted on by a committee.*

We don't want to be that kind of church
We want to stay open and be flexible enough to surrender to the HS whenever and however he decides to work

Jesus said, "You shall receive power," and it happened.
The Holy Spirit came, upon those early followers of Jesus and there was power to convict sin and power to create community and power to bring healing.

And the church was born! And everyone was filled with awe.

Paul says to the church at Galatia, **"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."**

Or he says to the church at Corinth, **"This is what we speak...words taught by the Spirit..."**

Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. "I pray **'that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.'**"

The Holy Spirit shows us our own disability and grants dependence upon His ability. Without the Holy Spirit we're sunk.

May we learn the joy and power of living the Spirit-filled life.