

If you're here for the first time today, I want to welcome you. In the seatback in front of you you have a card that looks like this [*he holds one up*], would love for you to fill it out and let us know that you're here, and would love to say hello to you this week and connect with you. If you're joining us online right now, welcome. That's why I had to grab Stephen's microphone; my other mike wasn't getting through to the people online and we want to just welcome you and we want you to be part of our church this morning. So wherever you're at welcome and we're thankful that you're with us. We actually have pastors that are online with those who are on online and so they're there praying with them and there for them, so it's just awesome to be a part of a body of Christ that goes way beyond this room. So thanks so much for being here this morning.

I sort of feel like there is never the right time to have this conversation—you'll understand what I mean in a second—it just feels like I want to get right to the text and what we're gonna be talking about from the Bible today, but I want to share with you a little bit about my life and what's going on in our family's life. One of the things I so appreciate about all of you is you come here every week and there's a huge trust that is built by the fact that you say, you know, *I'm gonna spend an hour and be a part of what's going on in this room*. And we get to know each other and that's why I love being here before the service and after the service and being available during the week because our relationship means so much to me. And in the course of that though, I'd love to bring you up to speed on some stuff going on in my own life and in our family's life.

Many of you know that we came here to Calvary a little over six years ago and when we came here one of the things that as a family we said is we want to serve you. That's every one of us, all four of us said we want to serve this church. And if you have been around for the last six years you've seen my kids and my wife, you've seen us everywhere all the time. There's hardly an area of the church that we haven't jumped in and become part of because that's what God



Noelle & Matthew in 2013

called us here to do, and so we believe a normal Christian does is serve and we love being a part of that process.

When we came here six years ago our kids were very, very young. I have a picture of them, let's pop that up on the screen there. It was not on the first week but it was within the first couple months that that picture was taken and it was taken right over here before the

roof fell in, years before the roof fell in, and they are very different looking than that today and they would probably love for me to move on to the next picture quickly. Let me show you what they look like now there they are now—proud papa on the front



Matthew & Noelle in 2018

row a couple weeks ago. I'm standing there snapping pictures because I'm just like this is awesome both of my kids are—I assume you know which ones are my kids—not the guy on keyboard.



Anne at QVC

And many of you know my wife [Anne], this is her busy time of the year, she's on air with QVC. I snapped this picture last night. So anyhow, we are blessed and are loving our life here in Downingtown, but in the midst of that a lot is about the change. I think we ought to move away from the conspicuous consumption here [QVC]. Let's go back to my two kids on stage, there we are, that's better. I mean, I love having a picture of my wife up there, but we don't want it to be a massive advertisement.

So anyhow, back to our lives right now, Anne's life and my life has changed radically. Back in May my daughter graduated from Drexel University and has been a pharmaceutical consultant and is traveling. In fact, she's in Florida right now, has been there all this last week, will be there this coming week, and is loving life as a pharmaceutical consultant. My son at the beginning of the summer said, "Yeah, I don't think I want to go to my senior year of high school," so he graduated early, worked his tail off to graduate early and pulled that off. And then he applied to go to Lancaster Bible College and got in there and at the end of August decided he was going to head down there. I wasn't even allowed to take him to college. He said, "I'll drive myself. I can take care of it." Well, well – I'll move you in. No, dad's don't do that. Okay. Cool. Anyhow, so, but he has decided dad's okay on campus as long as dad's coming by to pick him up to take him out for dinner now so we like that. Right? So if we go get a good meal [looking at Matthew in audience] —you're just dying, aren't you? You're like, *Would you stop it. This is what they teach preachers not to do.* So anyhow he's killing it down there. He's a criminal justice degree and we try to find every reason to bring him back. He's back this weekend for Fall Break but he's found a church down there that he is jumping in and being involved in, so that's killing Stephen and I, we love having him up here on the drums serving in that way.

And then, um, just this last week my daughter accepted a position as lead data scientist at a company in Seattle, Washington, and will be moving on November 1 and moving up there permanently. And so Anne and I are going to be empty nesters and we're gonna be trying to figure that out. So I just wanted you to know that when you when you hear that I'm flying up there to speak at a church—I haven't spoken in Seattle, Washington, for over 10 years—but I'm praying that the churches in Seattle, Washington, need a speaker now to come up there and speak. So if you have any connections up there, tell 'em you know of a good preacher that would like to preach on a given Sunday morning, so I gotta find ways to go up and see my daughter often.

But anyhow, that's what's going on in our lives and I just want to say this to you as a church, my kids would say that this has been an amazing church. We hear horror stories when we talk to pastors all the time about PKs [Pastor's Kids] and this kind of thing, and PKs being treated awfully and them seeing the underbelly of the church and then walking away from God. Both my children love Jesus a lot and are following Him with their entire life, and I thank each one of you; you've been a very much a part of their lives. Many of you have breathed into their lives and come alongside of them and encouraged them and blessed them and we are, Anne and I, are incredibly thankful for the way you have treated them and blessed them. And I would say I would speak for the other pastors when I'd say you have done that for their kids, too. And believe me, that is not common across America today. It's just amazing how people will try to get to a pastor and harm a pastor by harming the kids, and that has not been the case here. You have been a wonderful, wonderful church and you've treated my kids wonderfully, you've treated my wife wonderfully, and it's just a huge blessing. If you get a chance to touch base, my son's here today, my daughter will be here next week, you can love on them and reach out to them and encourage them because they love you and have loved being a part of what God is doing here at Calvary. Again, my hope is to be in relationship with you and so I just wanted to share a little bit what was going on in my life and what's taking place.

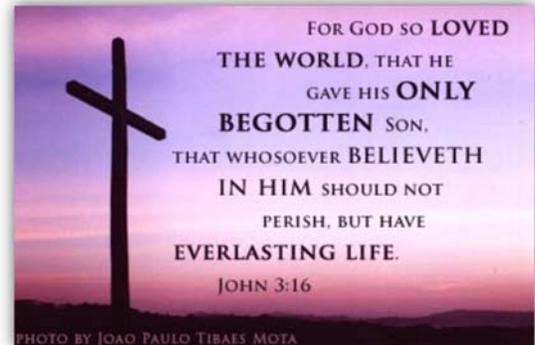
Let's get right to the Word of God though because we've been in this series called GROUNDED for the last five weeks. You'll remember we started by talking about the Father and establishing the fact that the



Father is God, which for most people understanding that the Father is God is not a difficult thing. The hard thing for most people is understanding what the Father is like and the Bible explains that; the problem is is we

oftentimes figure out our Father in Heaven based on our father on earth, so if our father on earth was a guy who sat on a La-Z-Boy all the time watching football, that's sort of how we picture God, sitting on a big celestial La-Z-Boy watching the big screen up in Heaven. And so we get God wrong so easily because we have these things called earthly fathers that don't represent who God is. And so we began to talk a little bit about who the Bible says God is.

Think about it for a moment that one verse that we all recognize, John 3:16: *"For God so loved"*—this is a loving Father. He so loved each one of us, loved the world, that He gave His only Son – Jesus. And last week we established the fact that Jesus is God. That is a very highly opposed statement because if you can somehow take away the fact that Jesus is God then Jesus doesn't have the power to save. But when Jesus came to this earth and hung on the cross to take the penalty and the punishment for my sins and your sins, to die in our place as a substitute, to go into the grave and yet come out of that grave victorious, and put God put His stamp upon Him and say He is alive, this is legitimate. For that reason, today we can know that we can overcome death in the grave, and we know we want to follow One who was able to do that.



Today we want to talk about the Holy Spirit. We are in a time of the year where you're going to hear a lot about spirits, Halloween, witches, evil spirits. People want to sit down and watch a horror movie for the pure purpose of it's Halloween and that's what we do at Halloween. My Bible says that Satan is the angel of light and he masquerades as the angel of light.¹ Peter says that Satan moves around seeking to devour anyone in his path.² And Satan will take these things and try to make them humorous and fun and playful to be able to get a back door into a life. Satan will do all sorts of things to try to cause people to say, "I want to dabble in that because I get some sort of a power rush as a result of that," and immediately you are sucked into something that you never wanted to get into. Because here's what we do know for certain in this room today is that when you came into this room today so many of you across this room said, "I just want a touch from God." "Oh, if I could just go to church this morning and have God's power and God's Spirit move in me."

I read a lot of business books, it's something I just enjoy doing, and I've noticed a theme that I found in a bunch of the books I've been reading recently. The authors will talk about how meditation has helped them and how much they enjoy that and how that helps free their mind and allow them to be able to do what they do all the more and all the better. At first that didn't seem to bother me because I sort of thought, you know, that's a good reminder. I need to stop and I need to take time out of my day in prayer. But that wasn't what they were talking about and it hit me not too long ago when I was sitting in one of those exercise classes at the gym and I was doing the thing and the teacher dims the lights and the instructor says, "Here's what I want you to do while we're doing this next exercise. I want you to close your eyes and I want you to let everything go and I want you to empty your mind." And I want to tell you what, when that thing takes place that is where Satan begins to play in the playground.

I was at a conference at the end of the summer. This guy came up to me and after one of the sessions and said to me, "I want so bad to feel power in my life. I want so bad to be able to touch and reach God." He said, "So bad that here not too long ago," he said, "he went into his house, no one was home,

¹ *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. ~ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15*

² *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ~ 2 PETER 5:7*

he turned off all the lights and turned on just a couple little mood lights and he cranked worship music.” I thought, well, that’s okay. He says, “But I wasn’t feeling it.” He says, “I wanted to feel it. I wanted to feel the power of it. I wanted it to do something to me.” He said, “So I started drinking.” And he says, “I got really, really, really drunk.” But he said, “It still wasn’t doing it for me, so I started doing drugs.” And he said, “For a moment or two,” he said, “it started feeling really, really good. It was what I was looking for. It was the power I was wanting to feel.” And then he said, “All of a sudden it was like,” he said, “the best I can explain it,” he said, “it was a scariest, most freaky thing that’s ever happened to me. It was like this black blanket fell over me and I was lowered into the deepest depression I have ever felt.”

People are trying to feel the power of God but trying in all the wrong ways. I told him that’s not how you get to the power of God. Ephesians says do not be drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit.³ Any time we’re trying to fill our brain or to try to find that power in any other way other than the Holy Spirit, Satan is active.

Remember I said that he masquerades as an angel of light, tries to make it look good, tries to make it look harmless, and we take the bait. And so a lot of things done in the name of the Holy Spirit, a lot of things where you’re seeking the power of the Holy Spirit, a touch from God, is a substitute and you wonder *Why did that not work? Why did that not stick?* You can’t have a substitute because who the Holy Spirit is IS God, and the Holy Spirit offers to come inside and indwell each one of us. Imagine this, God inside of us. Let me explain that God piece just for a moment.

Take you to the top, take you right back to the very beginning in the first two verses of the Bible, you

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void, and darkness
was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God
was hovering over the face of the waters.
Genesis 1:1-2

see the Holy Spirit at creation. You remember those words, “*And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*” The Spirit is God.

You may remember in the book of Acts the story of Ananias and Sapphira. At that time the church was growing really, really fast. It

was new and people were all in. They wanted the gospel of Jesus to go out. But when that’s the case, getting that out and making that happen costs money. There were people in need, there were needs, and so people were doing crazy things to give back to God. And at that time people were actually selling property and bringing it and laying at the Apostles’ feet going, “Listen, I sold this property. You can have it all, use it to glorify God.” So this one couple by the name of Ananias and Sapphira do that very thing, they sell a piece of property. And for some crazy, ridiculous reason after having sold that piece of property, I guess they had planned on giving it all back to God but at the last minute they decided not to, and we don’t know what, but evidently they brought the money. They said, “This is the money that we received from that property, all of the money from the property.” We don’t know if they brought them 40 percent or 50 percent or 99 percent, but they had said that they brought all of it and they brought

The Spirit is God

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”

Acts 5:3-4

³ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ~ EPHESIANS 5:18*

something less than all of that. And you can see on the verse on the screen from Acts chapter 5 Peter says:

“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself a part of the proceeds of land?”

— he says —

“While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own?”

— they didn't have to give it. Giving is always something that comes from the heart, it's not something that anyone is twisting your arm to do. He says —

“After it was sold, was it not at your own disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart?”

— but what I want you to hear is what that last line says. The last line in that verse says —

“You have not lied to man but to God.”

~ ACTS 5:3-4

When they lied to the Holy Spirit, they lied to God. This verse links together that Holy Spirit *is* God.

I'd love for you to turn to John chapter 14 in your Bibles. Three weeks ago when we were talking about the Father I took you to John 14. Last week we could have easily, when we were talking about the Son, gone to John 14. I would love to today for you to just focus in on John 14. I'm gonna be going through a lot of different verses, but specifically these would be the verses that I want you to turn to. You may want to jot some of these other verses down as we get to them. John chapter 14 and I'm gonna start a verse before the text that we're gonna put on the screen. Jesus speaking here, John 14, verse 15, says this:

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

~ JOHN 14:15-16

The disciples have been walking and talking with Jesus. He was always there for them. He now, Jesus says I'm about to leave, I'm going to go be with My Father in Heaven, and the disciples go into sort of freak-out mode and it's like, “But Jesus, who are we going to go to in the future? How are we going to know what to do?” It was like having the ability to Google 2,000 years ago. I could just ask—and better—I can ask God Himself the answer to the question. I get the immediate answer. It must have been an amazing experience. But after having been with Him for quite some time they recognized that those answers went even deeper than just information—they were life-changing. And so now all of a sudden they're like, “What are we gonna do?” And Jesus says, “I am going to send you,” and He says the Holy Spirit and he refers to the Holy Spirit as a Helper. Isn't that exactly what we need we need? We need another helper.

You think back to the book of Genesis. God creates Adam and all of a sudden He looks at Adam and says hey, listen, it's not good that you be alone; you need another, you need a helper, a help mate.⁴ And God gives him Eve at that point. Here Jesus says to His disciples I'm gonna send you a Helper, and I love the next thing that it says, He will *“be with you forever.”* Not to leave you.

⁴ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. ~ GENESIS 2:18

Let me just keep on reading through these verses. Verse 17:

¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

— look at verse 18 —

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

~ JOHN 14:17-18

So He says I'm gonna be with you forever, and then He backs that up saying I won't leave you as orphans behind.

A bunch of years ago the thing that caused me to jump our church into doing a lot with foster care and this kind of thing was I was talking to a foster family and they were telling me that they were so torn up by the fact that when the kids would show up at their house they would come with these big black trash bags and all they're ownings would be in two, everything they owned would be in two black trash bags. And they asked the kids, “Why trash bags? I mean, can't you get anything better?” They said, “Well, they move us so often and when they come we don't have time to pack a suitcase nice and neatly, so we just chuck it all into a black trash bag and drag it out to the vehicle waiting at the street because it won't be long and we'll be gone from here again, too.” Can you imagine that feeling? A feeling like no one wants me. I don't belong. I'm not a part and I will never be at a place called home. It tore my heart out when I heard that.

Here's what God says to a group of people that sit here in this room today saying I feel displaced, I feel as if I am not a fit anywhere. I feel like I don't have anyone. I feel alone. I don't even know why I'm living here in Downingtown, in Chester County and Exton. Everyone seems so happy here, but I was brought here and sort of parachute dropped in and here I am. I don't know why I'm here. I don't know where this is headed. I don't know where this is going. Some of you feel like every friend has left you and here you're left sitting again with your two big, black trash bags that you drag behind you waiting for the next car to pick you up outside. And the hope that the Bible brings you is: Jesus says I won't let you be as orphans. I'm going to send you a Helper. That no matter what happens in life, no matter what the circumstances, I will never leave you as an orphan. I will be with you. And you remember that word a moment ago? *Forever*. If you're discouraged in this room today, I want you to take that, I want you to grab on to that. If the world's weights have sort of become a little too heavy, grab onto Jesus.

Look down to verse 26:

²⁶ But the Helper,

— Jesus continuing to explain to this —

the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send

Do you see the Trinity there in this verse? Jesus is speaking, He speaks of the Holy Spirit, He speaks of the Father all working together as one and yet three separate persons, equal in person. I mean, this is crazy this idea of the Trinity to wrap our brain around as we've been trying to do for the last few weeks. He says:

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,

~ JOHN 14:25-26

— important —

he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you;

You're starting to say in your mind right now, *This is what I need. I need God in my life—all day, every day. I need to be taught.* That's what the disciples did when they said Jesus, explain this to me. And He did, and He told all these things in our Scriptures. That's why we need to be reading our Bibles. Get it on an app on your phone so that when you're waiting for that doctor's appointment or are waiting for that next bus to just sit there and read it. Or get it in an audible app so that when you're traveling every day and you're going these long distances that you can just be listening to the Bible so that the words of Jesus can get your head because this says that the Holy Spirit, the Helper, will teach you all things and bring back to remembrance what you have read and what you have learned. God's Spirit will do that in your life.

Jesus wraps this up by saying:

my peace I give to you.

~ JOHN 14:26-27a

You know, with having just said I'm going to give you a Helper, I'm going to give you in your life my Holy Spirit, My Spirit to live with you, you can find peace.

Where do you go with all this? I want to put it together in this way. In Ezekiel, so we're talking, just rewind the tape way before the time of Jesus. Ezekiel's a prophet and he's prophesying looking forward. In Ezekiel 36:26 we read these words:

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

~ EZEKIEL 36:26

Now if you're reading through the Old Testament because you're reading through the whole Bible and you get to that, you may not have a clue where that's going or what's taking place there. You might remember how God gave His commandments to His people to begin with. He gave them on the tablets of stone, the Ten Commandments, this is the law that you are to follow.⁵ And yet that law could not save a person. It's good and it's righteous, but the people couldn't fulfill that.

In this room, we've tried, we've made promises, we've made commitments, we've signed contracts, we have turned over new leaves. I mean, you name it and yet what has happened? Like, "I can't do it," and it's so discouraging. And the people that had received this law were in that same mode. This is a good law and yet there's this constant reminder I can't live up to it. There's constant reminders of these externals that you've got to live in a certain way, and I look at you and you look really polished up and I look inside of me and I go, "I don't like what I see going on inside."

Think about these disciples again. They're with Jesus. They've had three unbelievable astounding years with Him. They have seen Him heal people. They have seen Him feed thousands. They have seen miracles. They have heard teachings that blew their minds. They have heard Him tell people stuff about themselves that no one knew. Here are guys who have lived with Jesus for three years, then in one night

⁵ See Deuteronomy chapter 5 and Exodus chapter 20

one betrays Him,⁶ another one curses and says, “I don't know the man.”⁷ How does that happen? And here in this verse He tells us there is coming a time when what once was external to us—the law—that we realized we could not fulfill, God would place inside of us and replace that heart of stone with a heart of flesh and give us His Spirit so that we would have a Helper internal all the time who is God, who could help us to live the way He would want us to live. What we could never do on our own now we could fulfill by following and living the life full of the Holy Spirit.

That's why in Acts 1:8 it says this:

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . .

~ ACTS 1:8a

So Jesus in your life, Jesus' Spirit in your life is not meant to just be a notebook full of information. Jesus in your life is meant to be a life lived to the fullest every day. And so when Jesus comes into our lives His Holy Spirit invades us and He changes us so that we can experience life to the fullest through the person and the presence of the third member of the Trinity of God—the Holy Spirit.

I took you to John chapter 14. A couple years ago we studied the book of Romans and one chapter, chapter 8, it's this one chapter that has so much to say in it that is powerful. Listen to these words from Romans 8:9:

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,

— that sort of goes back to what we were just learning from Ezekiel. If you put your trust in Jesus, the Spirit is in your life. And I highlighted these words in my Bible —

if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

~ ROMANS 8:9

If you listened to this a moment ago, I want the Spirit in my life. Not everyone in this world has the Spirit of God in their life—only those who are in Christ.

Ephesians chapter 1, verse 13, starts out with these words:

¹³ In him

— speaking of Jesus —

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth,

— you heard about the cross, you heard about a Savior who died to take on the punishment, to take your place on that cross, who would forgive you of your sins —

the gospel

— the good news —

of your salvation, and believed in him,

⁶ Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him. ~ MATTHEW 26:14-15

⁷ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” ~ MATTHEW 26:73-74

That's why I said when we took communion this morning, "Believe in Jesus." When you believe it, yeah, what He did on that cross does save me, when you come to that point and say I'm in. Jesus, I believe in You. I put my trust in You. Nothing else. I'm not adding you to a list of other beliefs that I have. I'm not adding You to a bunch of things so maybe that'll work, too. No, I believe in Him. I know that Jesus alone will save me. When you believe in Him, this is what Ephesians 1 says:

JESUS + NOTHING

[you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

~ EPHESIANS 1:13-14

Think about it for a moment. People everywhere are getting marks on their skin to mark themselves as being who they are. Wearing little logos on their shirt to mark themselves to make it very clear who they are. This says when you put your trust in Jesus, when you believed in Jesus, you were sealed with the Spirit of God who came into your life, who changed you, who will never leave you, who will be with you forever, who will help you, who will teach you, who will convict you of sin, who will help you, point you to Jesus. So that it isn't just merely when you get in that right situation, that right moment, that you feel the power of God but that the power of God now is resident within you.

For the disciples, Jesus was external to them. He said, Jesus before He left, He says wait on the Spirit.⁸ The Spirit's gonna come on you and when the Spirit comes upon you you're gonna do more and greater things than you've ever done before. And you go, "How can that be, Jesus?" And the way it is because no longer is God external to you, but God is living inside of you every day. That should be the most encouraging thing in this room today. You ought to get excited. You ought to leave here today going, "Oh, wow! God chose to take up residence in me." Jesus' Spirit through the Holy Spirit of God chose to take up residence in me to empower me to live my life if I believed in Him. That ought to change us. It ought to take off the chains from around us. We ought to be able to go out there and just boldly jump forward in our lives.

I like Romans 8:15. Let me read this verse to you.

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

~ ROMANS 8:15-16

When the Spirit of God is inside of you, we stop this doubting, "Am I a child of God?" I don't ever have to be living back in that slavery again. I told that guy at the end of that conference, "You've been the slave to sin and as a result of that you have grieved the Holy Spirit."⁹ That's one of the ways we can know that the Holy Spirit is a person—the Holy Spirit can be grieved. The Scripture talks about quenching the Holy Spirit.¹⁰ Some of us have grieved the Holy Spirit, some of us have quenched the Holy Spirit, and that's why we come to this place today and we say, "God, I want forgiveness in my life." The Holy Spirit convicts us and leads us to repent and turn from our sins and to say, "Jesus, I want

⁸ *And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* ~ ACTS 1:4-5

⁹ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ~ EPHESIANS 4:30

¹⁰ *Do not quench the Spirit.* ~ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:19

more of You in my life. I want forgiveness of my sins.” And the Holy Spirit cleanses us and renews us and now we have the presence and the power of God's Spirit in our life every day again.

I want to wrap up with one verse, it's the end of Jesus' life, He's about to leave this earth. He gives His final instructions to His disciples. They're familiar. He says, “Make disciples of all nations.”¹¹ That word *disciples* means “followers”—*mathētēs*. Make followers of all nations; followers of Jesus. So our job is to help other people become followers of Jesus. That's what we're all about here at Calvary, helping people become followers of Jesus. And so each one of us need to be a part of that, that shouldn't just be a Calvary thing, that shouldn't just be a pastor thing—that needs to be all of us to find people around us that we can help them follow Jesus better.

And He says make disciples of all the nations—one of the things that's fun about Calvary, we'll be talking a lot about it in the next three weeks, is that the nations of the world have come to Calvary. They are all over this room. You start meeting people and you say, “Where are you from?” and you're gonna find that we have all converged on this place. It's an awesome thing and we're to make disciples of the world. But one of the things that we know is that it's not to stop here. This isn't our only place, this isn't the world, we need to go out into the world.

So next week we start a new series called GLOBAL GOD. You've got to be here next week. I am bringing in a speaker from Uganda, he heads Compassion International there, has a huge ministry. His name is Dr. Richmond Wandera. He is going to blow your mind as he shares. My hope is—he shared some stuff with me that he's gonna share next week—my hope is that he's going to talk to you. One of the things I asked him as I said, “What would you say to our church if you could be here?” And he says, “I would just tell them the needs are so great and you've been so blessed, not only financially but in the knowledge that you have, and the abilities you have, and the energy you have, and the amount of people that you have.” And he's gonna come and tell us we need to go somewhere in the world and we need to make disciples, we need to make followers of Jesus, we need to help other people follow Jesus.



So the week after he speaks, which is next week, we're going to be sharing with you this huge vision to go to—our vision for Senegal—Senegal 2.0. Many of you know we have accomplished a huge vision and continue to work it in a little town or village I guess we call it of Babak and we're gonna be sharing with you in two weeks that we're moving to a new village and we're gonna take everything we learned there, but we're gonna need everyone in this church to help make that village all followers of Jesus Christ. That's what it says, make disciples, followers of Jesus, of all nations. Okay, so this is Jesus telling us this. Over the next week three weeks it won't be Pastor Lee telling you this, it won't be Dr. Richmond Wandera, it won't be our team that's going to be up here sharing this great big, huge vision for Senegal, or even on the last week that the founding pastor of this church, Pastor Carl Green, is going to be sharing with you and he's headed to Africa today. We have a team that just landed in North Africa this morning and he's going to join them tomorrow. Awesome things happening here. Jesus says go make disciples of all nations and it's not just for a few, it's for all of us and we're gonna help you be a part of that.

Listen to the rest of the verse, it says this: *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. I think the appropriate thing coming out of the end of this series talking about the

¹¹ *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, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” ~ MATTHEW 28:16-20*

Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—would be that many of you who have responded during this series to Jesus Christ, who have put their faith in Jesus, who stood up a couple weeks ago, some of you stood up and said, “Listen, I want to deliver my punchline. I want to be a part of it.” First step of obedience to following Jesus—whatever your place in following Him is, whether it's for the first time or you just realized, “Okay, it's go time now”—one of the first steps of obedience is to stand up and proclaim to the world, “I put my trust in Jesus and I'm following Him,” and go into the waters of baptism.

Jesus did this as an example and the Scriptures tell us, you talk about the Holy Spirit, that when Jesus came out of the waters of baptism there in the river a Spirit descended upon Him like a dove¹² in a very public way and God spoke in that moment. And so I'm gonna ask you: Would you be bold enough today to get baptized? Normally we do it right up here in the front. We decided to do something we've never done here Calvary before, we're just doing it out in the Café. Many of you tell me it's your favorite place in this church. It's my favorite place, I like to eat. So you can go out there and you can grab a cup of coffee and you can be a part of this exciting day of people getting baptized. They were still being baptized in-between services.

You say, “Well, I didn't bring a swimsuit. I'm not set up for that.” We have shorts. We have shirts. We have hair dryers. We have changing rooms. We got the whole nine yards. You say, “Well, the family's not here to watch.” This isn't about the family being here to watch. This is something that you're saying if I'm gonna deliver that punchline, if I'm going to step up to the plate, if I'm gonna start following Jesus and I'm gonna be serious about this, right now is the time to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



So right now I'm gonna ask that our team come up here. We're gonna wrap up by singing that song that we ended with because some of you are going, “I need the Spirit of God in my life.” We're not going to try to conjure that up, we're not going to try to work that up, but rather we stop right now and we say, “God, if there's sin in my life, forgive it. If there's something that I've been doing that's been quenching your Holy Spirit, God, would You cleanse me of that right now? Would You come into my life, mold me, make me, use me. I want that. I want your Spirit to be flowing through me so I can go step into those waters of baptism and boldly proclaim I've put my faith and my trust in Jesus and I want to follow Him in obedience for the rest of my life.”

Before we sing this song we give you the opportunity to give your tithes and your offerings. Thank you. You're a generous church. You love to give and I'm blown away because you see what's going on for the gospel here and you go, “I want to be a part of that. I want to be a part of that gospel ministry.” It's big and so I'm just gonna ask you to give back your gifts right now. Many of you do it online, thank you for doing that. The buckets are at the end of each row. If you're sitting on one of these end rows, would you just grab that bucket and pass it across and give your gifts back to the Lord.

Now listen, we're gonna sing this song right now, *Spirit of the Living God*, and I want you to just do what you were doing a little bit ago. I'd like you to sing that out at the top of your lungs and just call upon Him to fall fresh on you. And we're just going to let that fall on this room, just let it rain down, let God's Spirit rain down. And if you would, would you start heading out there to the baptism. The pastors are out there, elders are out there, they're just gonna ask you, “Why do you want to get baptized

¹² And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ~ MATTHEW 3:16

today?” And you tell them you put your faith and trust in Jesus alone and you want to shout it out to all those who are around. Lots and lots have done it already today. Just slide out that door [*points to his left*] and you can just stay in here and let the Spirit of God move in your life as long as you wish here. God bless you.

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/296288695>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/rq-ETZJOoPE>

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