

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Gift of the Spirit

Sunday, February 6, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 2:1-13**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Churches and congregations often become suspicious of certain activities and even certain words and ideas because of past experiences. The doctrines surrounding the giving of the Holy Spirit and of spiritual gifts is one area where many churches stumble because of these types of suspicions. Suspicions can actually sabotage our faith because when we are suspicious it can lead us to inactivity or even unbelief. We need to check our suspicions against scripture and be open to what scripture actually says.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is God giving Himself to the Church. Keeping this principle in view will help us to avoid stumbling as we attempt to take this very important event seriously.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Ephesians 5:18-21 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:4-8; Galatians 5:25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do our suspicions affect the way we react to passages that talk about Pentecost and the gifts of the spirit? Are there other topics where our suspicions keep us from taking seriously what scripture says?
2. Review the story and the background - Go back and read Luke 24: 45-53; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-13. Consider the disciples' expectations and reactions. Do you think they would have understood the symbols of wind and fire? These events happened at Pentecost—what was Pentecost and how does it help tie this event with Matthew 28:19-20?
3. The Holy Spirit is given to all believers. Discuss the distinction between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit.
4. What does it look like when people are filled with the Holy Spirit?
5. If we have a weak pneumatology (theology concerning the Holy Spirit); how might it show in our Christian life and worship? What are some ways we can strengthen this doctrine?